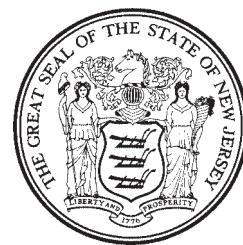




# VETERAN JOURNAL



For information on veterans entitlements call toll-free 1-800-624-0508

Summer 2001

## National POW/MIA Recognition Day Friday, September 21, 2001

*Compiled from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office*

### Team to recover Remains of WWII U.S. Airmen in Russia

August 6, 2001

A team of 10 specialists left Hawaii for Russia to bring home the remains of seven Navy airmen missing in action from World War II.

The wreckage of an U.S. Navy PV-1 Ventura bomber was discovered on Russia's Kamchatka peninsula in 1999. In August 2000, a survey team at the isolated crash site on the slopes of a volcano, confirmed that the Navy aircraft was the one missing from a March 25, 1944, mission from Alaska to the Kurile Islands, south of the Kamchatka peninsula, to bomb Japanese targets.

The survey team found large pieces of aircraft debris and unexploded 500-pound bombs in the wreckage. The team also recovered some human remains and brought them to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI).

Since 1978, CILHI scientists have identified the remains of nearly 300

servicemen missing in action from World War II.

### Vietnam War MIA Identified

August 2, 2001

Remains of a U.S. Air Force pilot missing in action from the Vietnam War have been identified and were returned to his family. The formerly missing serviceman is Maj. Victor J. Apodaca, Jr. of Englewood, Colo.

On June 8, 1967, Apodaca and Capt. Jon T. Busch were flying an armed reconnaissance mission over Quang Binh province, North Vietnam, when their F-4C Phantom was struck by enemy fire. Other U.S. aircrews in the area reported receiving a radio transmission from Apodaca that he had lost use of the hydraulic system on his aircraft. Soon after, a weak emergency beeper signal was heard, but no aircrew saw where Apodaca's plane might have crashed. A visual and electronic search of the area continued into the next day without results.

Apodaca's remains were returned to his family for burial with full military honors.



### Remains of Eight U.S. Servicemen Recovered in North Korea

July 11, 2001

The Department of Defense announced that remains believed to be [See MIA/POW Brief, Page 12]

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**POW/MIA Day Ceremonies** Friday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.  
**New Jersey Korean War Memorial** in Atlantic City (609) 530-7049  
**Vietnam Veterans' Memorial** in Holmdel (732) 335-0033

# A Hand Up to Homeless Vets Stand Down 2001 - Cherry Hill

By G. Natasha Zoe

*Veterans Information Officer, DMAVA*

On Friday, September 21, beginning at 8 a.m., the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc., will be co-hosting Stand Down 2001 at the Cherry Hill Interactive Community Resource Center (Armory.) DMAVA, along with many volunteers and civic organizations, is holding the Stand Down to provide homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services availability, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. Stand Down's ultimate goal is to show disenfranchised veterans that someone still cares and to assist them in bringing their homelessness to a close.

This is the second year Stand Down has been held at the Cherry Hill Interactive Community Resource Center (Armory.) Prior to 2000, Stand Downs were held at Fort Dix and Naval Weapon Station Lakehurst. Last year 133 homeless veterans and their families attended the Stand Down. Three of the veterans were admitted directly to Veterans Haven (a transitional housing program for New Jersey's homeless veterans.)

"On any given night there are 341,000 veterans estimated to be homeless, up from 274,000 in 1995," said Paul Sutton, Chief Homeless Veterans Services, DMAVA. "About one-third of the homeless in the United States have served in the Armed Forces. The number of homeless Vietnam veterans exceeds the number

of servicemembers killed during that conflict. There are currently 7,000 homeless veterans in New Jersey."

Stand Down comes from the military term referring to exhausted combat units that were removed from the battle front to a place of security and safety for rest and recovery. Today Stand Downs are a grass-roots, community-based intervention program to help homeless veterans battle life on the streets. "The program has a philosophy of a hand up not a hand out," explained John Ulrich of Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc. The first Stand Down was held in 1988 in San Diego. Today more than 80 are held annually to reach an estimated 100,000 homeless veterans.

The organizations supporting Stand Down 2001 are DMAVA, Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc., the Veterans Administration, The Retired Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Marine Corps League, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Veterans of Foreign War, Gold Star Wives, Jewish War Veterans, Burlington County Veterans Services Office, Camden County Veterans Services Office, Camden County Board of Social Services, Community Services of Camden County, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Fort Dix post chaplains.

The Camden County Clerks Office along with the Camden County Department of Parks has donated the sanitation facilities. SYSCO Foods of Philadelphia and the Maple Shade Rotary Club have joined forces to provide the food, supplies and refrigeration needs for the Stand Down.

"In our country's time of need these fine men and women were willing to jeopardize their lives to defend our homes. Now in their time of need the community needs to work together to support and honor our local unsung heroes," said Ellen McDowell, president of the Maple Shade Rotary.

To donate goods or services for the Stand Down contact Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc. President Harry Ruhle at (856) 854-0149.

For more information about this Stand Down call John Ulrich at (856) 795-5184.

*The New Jersey Veteran Journal is an official publication of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends, and concerned individuals and groups.*

*Donald T. DiFrancesco  
Acting Governor*

*Maj.Gen. Paul J. Glazar  
The Adjutant General*

*Michael L. Warner  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Veterans Affairs*

*G. Natasha Zoe  
Editor*

*Barbara J. Harbison  
Mark Olsen  
Proofreaders*

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*All correspondence should be sent to the editor at:  
DMAVA, PAO-V  
PO Box 340  
101 Eggert Crossing Rd.  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340*

# Letter to Maj.Gen. Glazar

Dear Major General Glazar:

I am writing this letter to inform you of the fine care that my father, Berthel A. Cedermark, a veteran of the Navy in World War II received over the past year and one half at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland.

Unfortunately, he passed away on June 26th of this year. However, prior to his death he was cared for by the most compassionate group of individuals that I have ever met. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist with 26 years of experience in patient care and feel qualified to make this judgement.

It was not an easy decision to admit him to a nursing care facility when his health began to deteriorate in late 1999. The daily news is replete with scandals involving nursing institutions and the mistreatment that many of our country's elderly receive when entrusted to the care of these homes. This, however was not even remotely the case when we had my father entrusted to their care. From our very first contacts with social services, the business office, medical staff and administration, the process was courteous and efficient.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the fine work of the nurses and nursing assistants of the 2A, the Alzheimer's Unit on which he resided. Geriatric nursing is a challenge, even under the best of circumstances. These folks have taken upon themselves an even more challenging task, the care of the Alzheimer's patient. The frustration that many Alzheimer's patients experience is often exhibited by physical behavior that makes him or her particularly difficult to care for. Daily care is tedious and sometimes dangerous. They must be assisted with all activities including dressing, eating and bathroom activities. Not just some-

times, but all the time.

The patients of Unit 2A were always clean and well fed. Despite being short-staffed I witnessed staff members sitting with a patient a full hour to ensure that a patient's full meal would be consumed. Toilet activities were scheduled on a regular schedule so that patients would not have to suffer that indignity of "accidents" – and if they did occur, they were attended to in a timely manner. All of these duties were performed with a caring, loving manner which I have never witnessed before. When my father did suffer medical setbacks they were quickly identified and treated. When he required hospital treatment, he was accompanied by a familiar staff member.

Perhaps the most agonizing time that a family member can experience is at the end of a visit to their loved one – not knowing what care will be taken of him when we are gone. My brothers and I were able to return home knowing full well that our father was receiving the finest, most compassionate care. The people caring for him not only became his care givers but also his friends.

Despite the fact that their duties often require them to work overtime, even double shifts, so that staff shortages do not adversely affect the care of their patients, these folks remain efficient and patient. Their dedication to these veterans and their families sets a standard that the Vineland Veterans Home can be proud of.

Although my father is now gone, I will look back on my visits with fondness toward the people who took care of him in what could have been the most difficult time of his life. I am indebted to them forever.

Sincerely,  
Bert R. Cedermark

## Shrapnel

Bits & pieces of interest

### New Jersey Women Veterans Advisory Committee

A monthly meeting is held at the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home the second Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. For more information call Catherine Viscito at (609) 698-3985.

*All events and notices are included as space is available. Events must be opened to the general public, without discrimination or membership. Submissions must include hosting organization; event description, date, time and place; point of contact and cost if any. Submissions may be sent to: Veteran Journal Editor, NJDMAVA, PO Box 340, Eggert Crossing Road, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.*

## Memorial Day

It was the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It was the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It was the Veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It was the Veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us the right to demonstrate.

It is the Veteran who salutes the flag, who served under the flag, whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

*by Father Dennis O'Brien,  
USMC*

## Legislative Process

A bill is introduced into the senate, assembly or house of representatives by a member of that house. The bill is then sent to committee(s) to determine its impact. If the bill leaves the committee, the full house votes on it. If it passes one house, the same process occurs in the other house. If it passes both houses it is sent to the chief executive office (president or governor) to be signed into law or vetoed. A veto can be overruled by a re-vote in both houses. Most bills never leave committee. An average of one in 300 bills become law.

## Your input and opinion

If you want to influence the legislative process, you must call or write your elected representatives. Only elected representatives can vote on a bill.

## To obtain a copy of a bill

### US Bills and Laws

The U.S. Library of Congress website has current bills and recent laws, as well as addresses and phone numbers for U.S. Senators and Representatives.

**HTTP : // THOMAS . LOC . GOV**

The Legislative Resource Center will mail copies of U.S. bills. Their phone number is 202-226-5200.

### NJ Bills and Laws

The New Jersey Legislative website has current bills and recent laws, as well as addresses and phone numbers for N.J. Senators and Assemblymen.

**WWW . NJLEG . STATE . NJ . US**

The Legislative Information and Bill Room will mail copies of N.J. bills. Their phone number is 609-292-4840 or within N.J. 1-800-792-8630.

*Editor's note: Due to space constraints this list includes most of the new laws and current bills (could be voted into law) but not resolutions (expressed opinions) that directly affect veterans.*

## New U.S. Laws

**HR801** - To expand eligibility for CHAMPVA, to provide for family coverage and retroactive expansion of the increase in maximum benefits under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, to make technical amendments, and for other purposes.

**HR1696** - To expedite the construction of the World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.

## U.S. Bills

**HR51** - To provide retiring servicemembers all benefits promised when entered service.

**HR65** - To permit retired servicemembers with a service-connected disability to receive a portion of their military retired pay and VA disability compensation.

**HR81** - To allow a refundable tax credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare part B.

**HR134** - To revise the criteria for presumption of service-connection of certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service.

**HR171** - To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure that veterans are eligible for discretionary relief from detention, deportation, exclusion, and removal.

**HR179** - To restore health care coverage to retired servicemembers.

**HR303** - To permit retired servicemembers with a service-connected disability to receive both military retirement for years of service and VA disability compensation.

**HR320** - To improve the Montgomery GI Bill benefits, increasing the amount of basic assistance, repealing the requirement for contribution pay for participation in the program, and authorizing the VA to make accelerated payments.

**HR406** - To prohibit a motor vehicle insurer from treating a veteran differently because during military service the veteran drove a vehicle insured or owned by the U.S. government.

**HR435** - To improve access to medical services at VA outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods.

**HR439** - To extend commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a service-connected disability of 30 percent or more and to their dependents.

**HR440** - To authorize space-available military airlift to veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more.

**HR442** - To increase the maximum home loan guarantee available to a veteran.

**HR511** - To improve outreach programs carried out by the VA to inform veterans of benefits available to them from the VA.

**HR514** - To provide a presumption of service connection for certain diseases and disabilities for veterans exposed during military service to carbon tetrachloride.

**HR545** - To revise the effective date for DIC for survivors of veterans who died during the Vietnam era or later.

**HR548** - To increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older.

**HR551** - To make vehicle travel reimbursement the same for both the VA beneficiary travel program and Federal employees.

**HR587** - To prescribe alternative payment mechanisms for the payment of annual enrollment fees for TRICARE.

**HR609** - To provide limited authority for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for those over the age of 65.

**HR612** - To clarify the standards for compensation for Persian Gulf veterans suffering from certain undiagnosed illnesses.

**HR639** - To establish a comprehensive program for testing and treatment of veterans for the Hepatitis C virus.

**HR699** - To change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from Oct. 1, 2008, to Oct. 1, 2002.

**HR745** - To prevent veterans' contributions to GI bill benefits from reducing Federal student financial assistance.

**HR764** - To provide a presumption of service connection for cold weather injuries for veterans engaged in military operations with sustained exposure to cold weather.

**HR811** - To authorize the VA to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, and updating patient care facilities at VA medical centers.

**HR843** - To allow the sworn affidavit of a veteran who served in combat during the Korean War or an earlier conflict to be accepted as proof of service-connection of a disease or injury alleged to have been incurred or aggravated by such service.

**HR844** - To make annuities paid by States to blind veterans disregarded in determination of supplemental security income benefits.

**HR862** - To make Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2) a presumed service-connection for veterans exposed to certain herbicide agents during military service.

**HR879** - To restore veterans tobacco-related illness benefits as before the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

**HR890** - To exempt amounts owed for VA prescription drugs and medical supplies from interest and administrative charges imposed on indebtedness to the U.S.

**HR936** - To improve programs for homeless veterans.

**HR952** - To grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

**HR963** - To provide compensation to veterans of the Bataan Death March, held POW by the Japanese.

**HR995** - To appropriate permanently the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

**HR996** - To ensure timely payments of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

**HR1015** - To provide for an increase in Servicemember's Group Life Insurance paid between Nov. 1, 2000, and April 1, 2001.

**HR1098** - To improve maritime lien records and expand the American Merchant Marine Memorial Wall of Honor.

**HR1106** - To exclude certain veterans' compensation and pension amounts from adjusted income for determining the rent under the U.S. Housing Act of 1937.

**HR1108** - To provide that remarriage of the surviving spouse of a veteran after age 55 shall not result in termination of DIC.

**HR1131** - To permanently fund the Radiation Exposure Compensation Trust Fund.

**HR1132** - To ensure timely payment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

**HR1136** - To require the VA pharmacies to dispense medications to veterans for prescriptions written by private practitioners.

**HR1215** - To ensure confidentiality in medical records and health care information.

**HR1232** - To repeal the two-tiers of the Survivor Benefit Plan.

**HR1233** - To authorize military recreational facilities to be used by any veteran with a compensable service-connected disability.

**HR1280** - To annually determinate the rate of the Montgomery GI Bill.

**HR1291** - To increase the amount of the Montgomery GI Bill.

**HR1351** - To provide VA furnished headstones for the marked graves of veterans.

**HR1377** - To ensure that military personnel do not lose the right to cast votes in elections as a result of their service, to extend the voter registration and absentee ballot protections for servicemembers to State and local elections.

**HR1406** - To improve presumptive compensation for veterans with ill-defined illnesses resulting from the Persian Gulf War.

**HR1435** - To authorize the VA to provide a national toll-free hotline with information and assistance for veterans.

**HR1469** - To provide for grants to repair veterans memorials.

**HR1541** - To authorized benefits for children of Vietnam-era veterans after determining their disease has a association with parental exposure to a herbicide agent.

**HR1587** - To repeal the 30-year manifestation requirement for a presumption of service-connection in respiratory cancers in veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

**HR1616** - To grant citizenship, to anyone who obtains the alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence status and then honorably serves 3 years active duty military.

**HR1717** - To require VA pharmacies to fill prescriptions from private practitioners.

**HR1724** - To provide that service in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps during WWII constituted active military service for the purpose of obtaining veterans benefits from the VA.

**HR1746** - To establish a single VA "1-800" number answered by benefit counselors with information on all veterans benefits provided by all Federal departments and agencies and by State governments.

**HR1813** - To revise the Survivor Benefit Plan for termination payments to a surviving spouse remarried before age 55.

**HR1917** - To provide a monthly stipend to the surviving parents (known as "Gold Star parents") of servicemembers who die during a period of war.

**HR1957** - To expand the list of presumed service-connected diseases for radiation-exposed veterans and to expand the radiation-risk activities list for servicemembers.

**HR1958** - To permit the transfer of entitlements under the Montgomery GI Bill.

**HR1962** - To modify the time Selected Reservists may use educational benefits.

**HR2095** - To make uniform the fees charged reservists and veterans for VA home loans.

**HR2123** - To increase funeral and burial expenses and plot allowance.

**HR2125** - To allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

**HR2201** - To increase aid and attendance compensation for disabled veterans.

**HR2223** - To pay veteran benefits until death instead of the month preceding death.

**HR2247** - To extend VA housing loans for members of the Selected Reserve.

**HR2361** - To increase as of Dec. 1, 2001, the rates of compensation for service-connected disabilities and the rates of DIC.

**HR2442** - To provide veterans benefits to merchant marine who served during a war.

**HR2561** - To increase the Medal of Honor pension and increase the criminal penalties for fraud relating to the medal of honor.

**HR2633** - To replace the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA), the formula used for the allocating funds for VA medical care in different geographic regions.

**HR2671** - To ban co-payment increases for 5 years for outpatient medication for the treatment of service-connected disabilities.

**S38** - To authorize service-connected, totally-disabled veterans to fly military space available.

**S43** - To authorize disabled former POWs to use commissary and exchange stores.

**S129** - To provide a monthly stipend to surviving parents ("Gold Star Parents") of servicemembers who died during a war.

**S131** - To modify the annual determination of active duty Montgomery GI Bill benefits.

**S170** - To permit concurrent receipt of both military retired pay by reason of years of service and VA disability compensation.

**S278** - To restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services.

**S305** - To remove the reduction of Survivor Benefit Plan annuities at age 62.

**S381** - To maximize the access of military voters and recently separated military voters to the polls, to ensure that each vote cast by such a voter is duly counted.

**S392** - To grant a Federal Charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Inc.

**S405** - To improve VA outreach programs informing veterans of VA benefits.

**S409** - To clarify the standards for compensation for Persian Gulf veterans suffering from certain undiagnosed illnesses.

**S448** - To permanently fund the Radiation Exposure Compensation Trust Fund.

**S449** - To ensure the timely payment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

**S456** - To enhance the efficiency, quality, and patient satisfaction in VA health care.

**S457** - To establish a presumption of service-connection for Hepatitis C.

**S561** - To provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to Federal employees be made available to servicemembers and retirees.

**S612** - To require the VA to develop and implement an annual outreach plan.

**S662** - To furnish VA headstones or markers for marked veteran graves.

**S739** - To improve programs for homeless veterans.

**S781** - To extend the authority for housing loans for members of the Selected Reserve.

**S912** - To increase veteran burial benefits.

**S937** - To permit the transfer of Montgomery GI Bill entitlement by servicemembers.

**S984** - To improve the Veterans Beneficiary Travel Program of the VA.

**S1022** - To allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a tax deduction for TRICARE premiums.

**S1063** - To improve the administration of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

**S1090** - To increase, effective as of Dec. 1, 2001 the rates of service-connected disabilities compensation and DIC.

**S1095** - To restore promised GI Bill educational benefits to Vietnam era veterans.

**S1113** - To increase the Medal of Honor pension, to provide an annual adjustment.

**S1114** - To increase the educational benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

**S1160** - To fund dog-guides to blind veterans and service dogs to veterans with hearing impairments or spinal cord injuries.

**S1221** - To establish an additional basis for establishing the inability of veterans to defray expenses of necessary medical care.

**S1226** - To require the display of the POW/MIA flag at the WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam memorials.

## New N.J. Laws

**S638 A2402** - Extends period of restricted sale of poppies to raise funds to benefit veterans.

**A1256 S847** - Excludes U.S. military pensions and survivors benefits of persons less than 62 years of age from gross income taxation.

**A1330 S1894** - Expands certain veterans' benefits to certain participants in the Lebanon Crisis of 1958.

**A1336 S1149** - Extends TPAF, PERS and PFRS veteran's status to certain participants in peace-keeping operations in Somalia, Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## New Jersey Bills

**A14** - Establishes Operation Recognition to provide State high school diplomas to veterans who left high school to serve in the armed forces during World War I or World War II. (Passed Assembly 6/29/00)

**A105** - Requires DMV to accept military retiree identification card as proof of legal name on driver's licenses.

**A214** - Excludes Armed Services combat zone pay from gross income taxation.

**A326** - Authorizes special license plates for military retirees.

**A368** - Extends property tax reimbursement benefits to certain low income veterans.

**A455** - Extends civil service veterans preference to veterans who served in NATO campaign or peacekeeping in Yugoslavia.

**A524** - Extends certain veterans' benefits to include veterans who served in NATO campaign and peacekeeping in Yugoslavia. (Passed in Assembly 5/25/00).

**A663 S687** - Authorizes special Distinguished Flying Cross license plates.

**A664 S686** - Provides for special Bronze Star license plates.

**A669 S780** - Allows gross income tax filers to designate contribution to VetGroup, Inc. for services to veterans.

**A671 S689** - Authorizes special license plate for distinguished service medal recipients.

**A701 S103** - Extends veterans' property tax exemption to tenant shareholders in cooperatives and mutual housing corporations. (Passed Assembly 5/24/01)

**A743 S702** - Provides reimbursement to municipalities for taxes lost due to totally disabled veteran's tax exemption and administrative expenses.

**A765** - Directs New Jersey Highway Authority to designate Garden State Parkway as memorial highway to ex-POW's. (Passed Assembly 10/30/00)

**A979** - Reallocates appropriate funds to pay disabled veterans' retroactive refund claims for property tax payments.

**A1195** - Makes certain changes in PERS retirement provisions for veterans.

**A1197** - Entitles representatives of WAC's WAVES, Women Marines and Vietnam Veterans of America to leave of absence with pay to attend conventions.

**A1225** - Establishes and allocates funds for program to provide capital grants to veteran's organization; appropriates \$250,000.

**A1237** - Authorizes special license plates for members of the DAV.

**A1249 S1907** - Permits certain TPAF veteran retirees to receive paid health benefits under State Health Benefits Program.

**A1258** - Grants local budget cap exception for personnel costs of employees in military reserves and NJ National Guard activated for NATO action in Yugoslavia.

**A1329** - Modifies maximum age for police and fire department hires and for PFRS enrollment by permitting subtraction from actual age of up to five years for service in Armed Forces, Coast Guard, reserves or National Guard.

**A1401** - Permits certain war-time veterans and military surviving spouses to receive enhanced homestead rebate amount similar to the homestead rebate amounts allowed for senior and disabled residents.

**A1446 S134 A2461** - Excludes veterans' entitlements from income for determination of PAAD eligibility.

**A1461** - Permits parking of vehicles with "Disabled Veteran" license plates in spaces reserved for handicapped.

**A1473** - Provides credit to retired or separated military personnel who apply for private passenger automobile insurance.

**A1570** - Provides property tax relief to certain totally disabled veterans and provides for municipal reimbursement by State.

**A1663** - Provides full or partial reimbursement to new veteran-owned small businesses of sales and use tax paid.

**A1711** - Broadens the criteria under certain circumstance, for eligibility for 100 percent exemption from property taxes for the surviving spouses of certain veterans.

**A1863** - "Veterans' Property Tax Relief Act of 2000."

**A2004 S503** - Revises retirement provisions for PERS members who are veterans.

**A2028 S609** - Implements proposed constitutional amendment extending eligibility for property tax deduction to New Jersey resident who is surviving spouse of non-resident veteran.

**A2042 S24** - \$7.2 million for Battleship USS New Jersey refurbishment.

**A2156** - Abolishes battleship commission and foundation; transfers funds to special account.

**A2276** - Directs that "New Jersey Turnpike" be designated "New Jersey Veterans Turnpike," appropriates \$500,000.

**A2349 S1123** - Authorizes free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and State park admission for persons with certain types of military service.

**A2482** - Establishes loan program to rehabilitate military monuments; appropriates \$600,000.

**A2490** - Provides that certain surviving spouses of veterans may continue to receive veterans' property tax deduction after remarriage.

**A2546 S1086** - Establishes special license plates for veterans of the Korean conflict.

**A2599** - Qualifies “Cold War” era veterans for veteran’s property tax deduction.

**A2613 S1654** - Amends definition of veteran for certain military engagements.

**A2810** - Accelerates by one year phase-in of veteran property tax deduction increase.

**A2823 S133** - Adds Haiti peacekeeping mission to definition of “active service in time of war” for eligibility to receive \$100 veterans’ property tax deduction. (Passed Assembly 5/24/01)

**A2833** - Redesigns special prisoner of war license plates.

**A2854 S1603** - \$50,000 to DMAVA for transportation pilot program to provide veterans’ medical transportation. (Passed Assembly 5/24/01)

**A2855 S1432** - Authorizes special emblem for license plates of disabled veterans.

**A2881** - Permits municipality to retroactively refund veteran’s property tax paid inadvertently.

**A2949** - Authorizes naval combat service license plate.

**A2951** - Authorizes special license plate for ex-prisoners of war.

**A3043** - Concerns calculation of retirement benefits of certain veteran members of PERS.

**A3180** - Authorizes special Bronze Star license plates.

**A3234** - \$500,000 to DMAVA for veterans guide and journal.

**A3236 S2095** - \$6 million to DHS for Social Services to the Homeless grant program and \$2 million to DMAVA to assist homeless veterans.

**A3258** - Appropriates \$25,000 to DMAVA for women veterans’ memorial at the NJ veterans’ cemetery at Arneystown.

**A3288** - Provides income tax exclusion for portion of federal civil service pension representing military pension benefit.

**A3377** - Authorizes free admission to State parks and forests and free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for retired members of NJ National Guard.

**A3386** - Clarifies military leave benefits for public officers and employees.

**A3389** - Extends certain veterans’ benefits to disabled veterans determined by VA to have a service-connected, permanent disability of 30 percent or greater.

**A3526** - Extends eligibility for veterans’ property tax deduction and disabled veterans’ property tax exemption to certain veterans who have served in Korean Demilitarized Zone.

**A3533** - Authorizes free admission to State parks and forests for disabled veterans.

**A3582 S1294** - Extends eligibility for NJ Distinguished Service Medal to 25 year State residents. (Passed Senate 5/14/01)

**A3611 S2410** - \$20,000 to DMAVA for grant to Italian American War Veterans of U.S. 66<sup>th</sup> annual national convention in Atlantic City.

**S24** - \$7.2 million for Battleship USS New Jersey refurbishment.

**S83** - Eliminates the requirement of overseas service in Operation “Desert Shield/Desert Storm” to qualify for civil service veterans’ preference.

**S133** - Adds Haiti peacekeeping mission to definition of “active service in time of war” for eligibility to receive \$50 veterans’ property tax reduction.

**S164** - Provides for the issuance of special motor vehicle license plates to Combat Medical Badge recipients.

**S214** - “Totally Disabled Veterans’ Property Tax Relief Act of 2000.”

**S422 A1971** - Provides special license plates for Purple Heart recipients. (Passed in Senate 2/7/00).

**S465** - Authorizes special license plates for members of the DAV.

**S590** - Authorizes “Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Foundation” license plate. (Passed in Senate 3/23/00).

**S620** - Authorizes issuance of POW plates for vehicles leased by former prisoners of war. (Passed in Senate 3/27/00).

**S687** - Authorizes special Distinguished Flying Cross license plates. (Passed Senate 5/03/01)

**S742** - Provides that TPAF and PERS veterans’ retirement with 35 years of services shall be based on highest benefit year rather than last year of service.

**S971** - Extends certain veterans’ benefits to persons inducted into active service through the U.S. Selective Service System during the Cold War.

**S1045 A2527** - Establishes special license plates for World War II Veterans (Passed by the Senate 6/8/2000).

**S1241** - Provides property tax exemption for fractional ownership by 100 percent disabled veteran in continuing care facility.

**S1388 A2783** - \$50,000 to DMAVA for study of veterans needs. (Passed Both Houses 6/14/01)

**S1521** - Provides for annual adjustment in allowance paid to veterans with certain wartime service-connected disabilities

**S1739** - \$358,000 to Division of Housing and Community Resources in DCA to fund grant to American Legion Post No. 91 for repairs caused by flooding.

**S1759 A3669** - Supplemental appropriation of \$337,500 to DMAVA for personnel and equipment at the veterans memorial cemetery.

**S1789** - Authorizes special Navy Seabee emblems on license plates.

**S1975** - Exempts from the sales and use tax sales made at concession stands located in State-owned veterans’ homes.

**S1997 A3091** - Supplemental appropriation of \$25,000 to Division of Housing and Community Resources in DCA to fund grant to Willingboro Township for veterans’ memorial. (Passed Senate 5/3/01).

**S2101** - Eliminates criteria qualified voter must meet to receive military or civilian absentee ballot.

**S2165** - \$40,000 to Division of Housing and Community Resources in DCA to fund grant to East Greenwich Township for veteran’s memorial. (Passed Senate 5/3/01).

**S2211 A3321** - Extends eligibility for veterans’ property tax deduction to residents of continuing care retirement communities.

**S2330 A3486** - \$25,000 to DMVA for a grant to the Vietnam Veterans United, Inc. of Mercer County for refurbishing of Mercer County Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial.

**S2340 A3437** - Allows for gross income tax deduction for any honorably discharged member of the US Armed Forces, Reserve unit, or National Guard.

**S2343 A3294** - Creates continuing education and nurse recruitment pilot program in DMAVA; appropriates \$348,000.

**S2349 A3723** - \$1,000,000 to DMAVA for construction of the State WWII Veterans Memorial.

**S2378 A3386** - Clarifies military leave benefits for public officers and employees.

**Proposed for Introduction**

**A3755** - Broadens the eligibility for veterans’ benefits by eliminating the requirement to have served in a specific war or conflict. Instead the bill requires a veteran to serve for at least 90 days in order to be eligible for the benefits listed below. A veteran who is discharged as a result of a service-connected disability will be eligible without the 90 days service. The effected benefits would be (1) civil service preference, (2) veteran’s retirement allowance under TPAF or PERS, (3) the purchase of additional military service credit in PFRS, TPAF and PERS, and (4) the annual property tax deduction or the property tax exemption.

**Don't let someone else's opinion count more than yours. Vote. If you don't do it, who will?**



# Updates from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

*Compiled from VA press releases*

## **Veterans Claims**

To achieve the Administration's commitment on claims processing, more than 1,000 full-time employees - all dedicated to helping veterans directly or to deciding their claims - were added to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in the first 180 days of the Bush Administration, marking the largest increase in VBA's workforce since the Vietnam War.

The President's FY 2002 budget also provides a 13-percent increase for the VBA that will help address one of the Administration's top priorities for the VA - improving the timeliness and accuracy of claims processing. That funding commitment will add more than 860 employees to the VA's compensation and pension program.

## **Veterans Health Care**

The VA medical care budget proposed by the Administration provides a \$1 billion increase to support veterans' health care. That budget includes funds to begin implementing the VA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) program recommendations that will improve the quality and accessibility of health care services for veterans.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi announced the establishment of six new VA Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Care Centers in February. One of the centers being established is in Philadelphia.

## **Veterans Burial Options**

Principi has continued and expanded initiatives to increase accessibility of burial options for an aging veteran population. He has also worked to decrease the wait time for headstones and markers. The NCA scanning initiative, an electronic scanning process for headstone and marker

applications, was completed. All facets of headstone and marker application processing are faster and more accurate. This project significantly decreased the wait time for families to receive their headstones and markers.

## **Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance**

The maximum amount of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance increased from \$200,000 to \$250,000, effective April 1, 2001. VA coordinated system and procedural changes to implement the new law and notify service members of the change.

## **VetPop2000**

Principi approved VetPop2000, the latest actuarial model providing VA's official estimate of the veteran population and its projection through the year 2029. The new population model and its projections are more accurate, comprehensive and accessible. The data will enhance assessments of legislative and program impact, future costs, workload and resource placement.

## **Veterans Enterprise Center**

Principi opened the new Veterans Enterprise Center in February as part of the VA Small and Disadvantaged Business program. The center is a one-stop resource for veterans who own or want to start their own businesses. It offers information about loans, business management programs, online training and procurement opportunities at all levels of government. The center is associated with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Labor and the Association of Small Business Development Centers.

## **Veterans' Group Life Insurance**

The VA is cutting premium rates for Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) policyholders between the ages of 30 and 59. This affects more than a quarter-million veterans and includes about 70 percent of those who

maintain policies through the regular payment of premiums. Policyholders will see the premium reductions and additional discounts reflected in their first premium bill after July 9.

Depending upon the age of policyholders, premium rates will decrease from 5 percent to 24 percent. For example, policyholders with \$100,000 in coverage between the ages of 55 and 59 will see a \$4 drop in their monthly premiums to \$84, while the group from 45 to 49 years of age will have a \$10 monthly reduction to \$32, a \$120 yearly savings.

VGLI is a program that allows former military personnel to convert their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage to lifetime renewable, five-year term life insurance. There are about 392,300 veterans covered under VGLI policies with a total face value, or basic insurance amount, of about \$37.4 billion.

## **Homeless Veterans Council**

The VA announced plans to form an advisory committee to evaluate policies and programs affecting homeless veterans. It is anticipated that the Homeless Veterans Council will be operational for at least six years.

The 15-member committee will include health care specialists, benefits counselors, mental illness and substance abuse professionals, education and training experts and social workers knowledgeable about permanent and transitional housing. The group will include at least one veteran who had been homeless and had benefited from homeless programs.

## **East Orange - New Center For War-Related Illnesses**

May 10, Principi approved the selection and funding of two new centers that will specialize in studying the treatment of war-related illnesses among military patients and veterans.



# Updates from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

One of the two Centers for the Study of War-Related Illnesses will be located at the VA medical center in East Orange.

“We’ve learned that combat casualties do not always result in visible wounds,” Principi said. “Inevitably, some veterans return with health problems that, while difficult to diagnose, are no less debilitating.”

Traditional medical care for service members and veterans tries to prevent and treat casualties caused directly by combat. However, experience from the Gulf and Vietnam wars has shown this approach does not address all the health care needs of combat veterans. The centers will develop ways to minimize illness and injury that can be implemented before, during and after future conflicts and peacekeeping missions. Additionally, the centers will explore ways to improve care for active-duty patients and veterans.

“Modern medicine cannot fully explain the causes of some of the illnesses suffered by returning veterans. Therefore, finding curative therapies is difficult,” said Dr. Frances M. Murphy, VA’s Deputy Under Secretary for Health. “Finding effective prevention and treatment will be the primary purpose of these two new centers.”

## **Toll-Free Agent Orange Helpline**

Vietnam veterans now have a national toll-free helpline to answer questions about Agent Orange exposure, health care and benefits. The new helpline is 1-800-749-8387.

Callers can speak directly to VA representatives Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. E.S.T., or access a 24-hour automated system.

They can leave voice mail messages to have information sent to them or listen to recordings about exposure to Agent Orange, VA benefits, health care and disability compensation.

## **Diabetes-Agent Orange Benefits**

Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange with “Type 2” diabetes are now eligible for disability compensation. VA offices are already accepting claims from eligible Vietnam veterans.

Veterans affected by the new rule will receive a priority for VA health care, and, depending upon the severity of their illnesses, disability compensation that ranges from \$101 to \$2,107 monthly.

The VA estimates that about 9 percent of the 2.3 million Vietnam veterans still alive have Type 2 diabetes. The illness is characterized by high blood sugar levels caused by the body’s inability to process the hormone insulin. Approximately 16 percent of veterans currently receiving care in VA medical facilities have been diagnosed with diabetes.

The number of diseases recognized by VA as associated with Agent Orange (service connected) has steadily increased since the early 1990s. The following conditions are also considered service-connected for veterans who served in Vietnam: chloracne (a skin disorder); porphyria cutanea tarda (a liver disorder); acute or subacute peripheral neuropathy (a nerve disorder); and certain cancers, including non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin’s disease, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer and respiratory cancers (including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus).

## **Toll-Free Spina Bifida Hot Line**

Vietnam veterans now have a new national toll-free hot line to answer their questions about health care benefits for their children who have spina bifida. The number for the hot line, operated by the VA, is 1-888-820-1756. Callers can speak to a benefits adviser Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m.

to 1:30 p.m., and from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

An after-hours phone message will allow callers to leave their names and telephone numbers for a return call the next business day. The hot line is managed by VA’s Health Administration Center in Denver.

## **New Regional Liaisons to Work with Veterans Groups**

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi announced the creation of a new network of six regional liaisons who will work with state and local elements of veterans service organizations (VSOs).

“VSOs are our partners in developing solutions, as well as in identifying problems,” Principi said. “By strengthening our ties to the VSOs at the state and local levels, we can improve VA’s service to veterans.”

Working with community-based veteran organizations, including state directors of veterans affairs, the liaisons will attend conventions, meetings and other functions to provide a communications channel between veterans and VA. They will also coordinate outreach activities to inform veterans and the public of VA programs.

New Jersey’s liaison is Paul A. Spera, of Attleboro, Mass., former National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

## **Office of Policy and Planning**

Claude M. (Mick) Kicklighter, a retired Army lieutenant general, is the new Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy and Planning at the VA. He will be responsible for reviewing policy and programs to assess whether they meet the intent of lawmakers and the needs of veterans and their families.

*Editor’s Note:* News from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs can be found on their Web site at [HTTP://WWW.VA.GOV](http://www.va.gov)

## *Voting in New Jersey*

The registration deadline for the Tuesday, November 6 General Election is Tuesday, October 9. All mailed voter registration forms must be postmarked by Tuesday, October 9 in order for the registrant to be eligible to vote in the general election.

### **Who Can Register:**

To register in New Jersey you must be:

- a US citizen,
- at least 18 years old on or before the next election,
- residing at your present address for at least 30 days.

You are not eligible to register to vote if you are serving a sentence or on parole or probation, as a result of a conviction of an indictable offense under state or federal law or have been adjudged mentally incompetent.

### **Where to Register:**

Applications for registration can be obtained from the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Division of Motor Vehicle offices and can be obtained while transacting agency business.

You can also mail a registration form to the Commissioners of Registration office in the county where you reside. In addition, this form can be used for name and address changes. The Commissioners of Registration cannot accept faxed copies or an electronic transmission of a voter registration form since an original signature is required.

The registration deadline to vote at the next election is 29 days prior to election day.

# THE NEW JERSEY Korean War MEMORIAL

## *New Jersey Korean War Commemoration Service*

New Jersey Senator Louis F. Kosco, Korean War Veteran, and Major General Paul J. Glazar, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, joined with hundreds of veterans and the public for the New Jersey Korean War Commemoration Service Monday, June 25.

The Commemoration Service, at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, paid tribute to the "Forgotten War" in which more than 191,000 New Jerseyans served and 827 were killed or are still considered missing. June 25, 2001, is the 51st anniversary of the United States' military involvement in Korea.

The Commemoration Service included the unveiling of five additional names of New Jerseyans who died in the Korean War.

### **Private First Class Daniel John Stiller**

U.S. Marine Corps  
Bayonne, N.J.

May 23, 1933 - November 28, 1950

### **Corporal Fred Marzloff**

U.S. Army  
Union, N.J.

December 6, 1950

### **Private Robert I. Downs Jr.**

U.S. Army  
Butler, N.J.

June 19, 1931 - December 25, 1952

### **Private First Class Frederick H. Daehnke**

U.S. Army  
Park Ridge, N.J.

July 31, 1928 - January 21, 1953

### **Sergeant First Class Peter Richard Romeo**

U.S. Army  
Jersey City, N.J.

June 2, 1929 - July 11, 1953

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MILITARY/KOREA/INDEX.HTML](http://www.state.nj.us/military/korea/index.html)

# N.J. Vietnam Era Educational Center

*Editor's Note: The Vietnam Era Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel, N.J.*

Sunday, September 16, **Rolling Thunder**. This is the 6th Annual Motorcycle Cavalcade organized by Rolling Thunder, Inc. to keep the issue of America's prisoners of war and missing in action in the public eye. The run departs from Warinanco Park, Elizabeth, N.J. at 11:00 a.m., travels the Garden State Parkway and arrives at the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, N.J. For additional information call (609) 971-3544.

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m., **The Ugly Angels of Vietnam: Marine Helicopter Heroes** - video and slide show by Ben Cascio about. The Ugly Angels of Vietnam: Marine Helicopter Heroes. From mid-1967 to mid-1968, Cascio, a retired Marine Corps captain, was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMM-362) and piloted Sikorsky H-34 helicopters which, because of both their successful rescue service and their rather ungainly appearance, became affectionately known as the "Ugly Angels." Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP one week prior to (732) 335-0033. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

Friday, September 21, 11:00 a.m., **POW/MIA & Gold Star Mother's Recognition Day Ceremony**. Guest speaker is Zack Roberts, Senior Director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Roberts was held prisoner in Germany during World War II for 15 months. For additional information call (732) 335-0033.

Wednesday, October 3, 4:00 p.m., **Teacher Open House**. An invitation to all educators to view the exhibit area, peruse the Resource Room and edu-

cational materials and meet the staff and volunteer tour guides. RSVP required. Attendees are asked to RSVP one week prior to (732) 335-0033.

Thursday, October 18, 7:00 p.m., **A World of Hurt: Between Innocence and Arrogance in Vietnam** - Author lecture by Mary Reynolds Powell about her book, *A World of Hurt: Between Innocence and Arro-*

*gance in Vietnam*, at the Vietnam Era Educational Center in Holmdel. In 1970, then 23 year-old Mary Reynolds began a one-year tour of duty as a U.S. Army nurse at the 24th Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh, South Vietnam. Uncertain and alone, she had no idea what lay ahead. Almost thirty years later, Powell tells the story of that year in her life – a year of discomfort, fear and anger, as well as courage, hope and love. She includes the stories of her friends – a helicopter pilot, an infantry captain, a Vietnamese aide, a drug counselor, and an emergency room nurse – who were with her in Vietnam. Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP one week prior to (732) 335-0033. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

Friday, October 19, Fall Forum - **Through Their Eyes: Vietnam Veterans' Experiences** An interdisciplinary Forum on the Vietnam Era. The activities include: a keynote address, presentation and discussion sessions, teaching techniques & strategy workshops, tours of the Memorial and Educational Center and continental breakfast and lunch. "Through Their Eyes:

Vietnam Veterans' Experiences" will explore a variety of personal stories behind three phases of Vietnam veterans' experiences — life before military service and reasons for becoming part of it, life "in country" from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ, and life immediately after and ever since one's "tour of duty" in Vietnam. Through presentations of personal experiences and eyewitness



## Women's Garden Groundbreaking

From left to right, Col. Kathleen Morrissey (DMAVA), Louis Vlahakes (NJVVMF), Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco, Donna Keefer (VVA) and Col. Mike Warner (DMAVA) break ground for the Women Veterans Meditation Garden. The garden, adjacent to the Vietnam Era Educational Center, will be built and planted by the New Jersey Highway Authority with funds provided by the New Jersey Legislature.

accounts the stories of Vietnam veterans will be viewed through their eyes. Registration Fee: \$50. Pre-registration is required. For additional information call (732) 335-0033.

Saturday, November 3, 1:00 p.m., **...and a hard rain fell** - Author lecture by John Ketwig. *...and a hard rain fell* is the baring of a man's soul in an attempt to explain the effect of Vietnam on his hopes, fears, beliefs and ambitions for himself and for his family. Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP one week prior to (732) 335-0033. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

## **MIA/POW Brief**

*Continued from Page 1*

those of eight American soldiers missing in action from the Korean War were repatriated in formal ceremonies at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on July 10.

A joint U.S.-North Korean team operating about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, recovered the remains during operations that began in June. The area was the site of battles between Communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

Of the 88,000 U.S. servicemembers missing in action from all conflicts, more than 8,100 are from the Korean War.

### **MIA Joint Arrival Ceremony Held** *June 28, 2001*

Remains believed to be those of 12 unaccounted-for American servicemen from the Vietnam and Korean Wars were honored at an arrival ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Eight sets of remains from the Vietnam War were recovered by military and civilian members of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI) during search and recovery missions in Laos and Vietnam. Four sets of remains from the Korean War were recovered by CILHI teams during excavations in North Korea.

Following the ceremony, the remains will be taken to CILHI where the forensic identification process will begin.

### **Lao Repatriation Ceremony held in Savannakhet**

*June 28, 2001*

Remains believed to be those of three American servicemen from the war in Southeast Asia were repatriated during a repatriation ceremony at Laos' Savannakhet Airport.

The remains from Laos were recovered by military and civilian members of Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii during a search and

recovery mission.

Since 1973, more than 600 American service members, formerly listed as missing and unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia, have been identified and returned to their families.

### **Vietnam War MIAs Identified**

*June 19, 2001*

A U.S. Air Force pilot and a Marine Corps aerial observer missing in action from the Vietnam War were identified and returned to their families.

Identified were Air Force Col. Harley B. Pyles of Enon, Ohio, and Marine Col. Winfield W. Sisson of Berkeley, Calif.

On Oct. 18, 1965, their O-1E *Bird Dog* aircraft encountered low-level cloud cover and rain en route to Da Nang Air Base from Kham Duc, South Vietnam. About 10 minutes out from Da Nang, Pyles attempted to make radio contact with the control tower. No further radio transmissions were received, and their aircraft failed to return. An aerial search was initiated hours later and continued for seven days but ended when no evidence of the men or their aircraft was found.

The evidence suggests that Pyles and Sisson died in what is now Thua Thien-Hue Province, Vietnam, when their aircraft crashed on the side of a mountain. There is no evidence that either man survived the crash. Human remains were recovered by local villagers who scavenged the crash site, as well as by CILHI personnel who excavated the site. Some of the remains were confirmed to be those of Pyles and Sisson on the basis of dental records and DNA analysis.

### **WWII Airmen Found in Tunisia**

*June 6, 2001*

Remains believed to be those of the six-man crew of a World War II bomber have been located in Tunisia and were repatriated in Tunis.

The aircraft wreckage was discovered in November 2000 during a

dredging operation of Lake Tunis, near the capital city of Tunis. The aircraft was under approximately six feet of silt and mud. The government of Tunisia halted the dredging operation and contacted U.S. authorities. The U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii (CILHI), mounted underwater excavations in November and January, recovering remains and personal effects.

The bomber, a Martin Marauder B-26, crashed in the water after having been struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a raid on El Aouina air base in December 1942. Based on serial numbers from the aircraft, the Army has made an association with a specific aircraft, and has located most of the surviving family members of the crew.

During the past 28 years, CILHI teams have recovered remains believed to be those of 389 World War II servicemen, more than 250 of these have been identified.

### **Remains of Three U.S. Servicemen Recovered in North Korea**

*May 29, 2001*

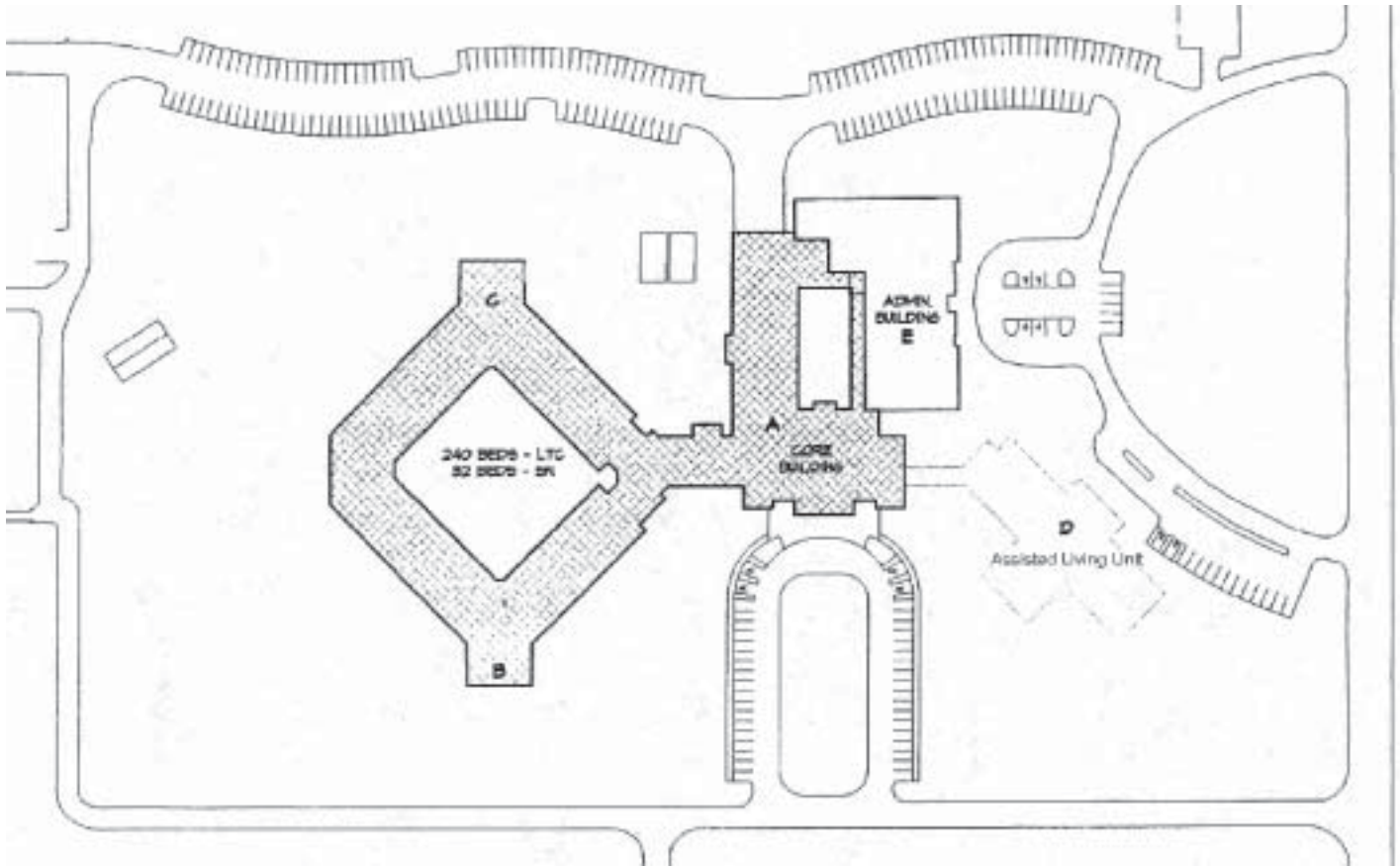
Remains believed to be of three American soldiers, missing in action from the Korean War, were repatriated at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

A joint U.S.-North Korean team operating in Unsan and Kujang counties and along the Chong Chon River, about 60 miles north of Pyongyang, recovered the remains during operations that began earlier this month. The area was the site of battles between Communist forces and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd and 25th Infantry Divisions in November 1950.

Seventeen operations were conducted between 1996 and 2000 in North Korea, which resulted in the recovery of 107 sets of remains believed to be those of U.S. soldiers.

*Editor's Note: Regular updates from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office may be found on their Web site at [HTTP://WWW.DTIC.MIL/DPMO](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo)*

# Vineland's New Construction



By Cynthia Romano, Project Secretary,  
N.J. Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland

The State of New Jersey has recently submitted a final grant application to the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. for their review and approval to construct a new 300 replacement facility. The facility would be constructed on the existing site within the confines of the existing buildings.

There will be 240 long-term care beds divided among four 60-bed wings, a 32-bed Alzheimer wing, and a 28-bed assisted living unit. The facility will house all support services to include rehabilitation therapy services.

The two-story structure would connect to the existing administration building, affording access throughout the facility eliminating the need for residents, staff, and visitors to walk outside during inclement weather. The circular

design of the 60-bed wings will provide equal access to all nursing stations. A landscaped courtyard with a waterfall, surrounded by the residential bed wings, will be a focal point.

The project will cost more than \$47 million. Ground breaking for construction is slated for August 2002, pending approval of VA funding. New Jersey has appropriated \$12.9 million as their 35 percent share of the design and construction cost in July 2000.

The assisted living unit will be attached to the long-term care facility but will be a self-contained facility that will provide a continuum care approach for veterans in need of health care. This assistance will be available to New Jersey veterans, their spouses and widows/widowers, and gold star parents who cannot afford this service in private assisted living facilities. Residents will have access to the resources available in the

long-term care facility, such as full-service healthcare as well as the chapel, library, canteen, arts and crafts, bowling, etc., and will be able to participate in the daily activity programs provided.

Due to the high demand within the veteran community for such services, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority is currently in the decision making process to fund an additional 32 assisted living beds (at a cost of \$4.6 million) as a living memorial. CRDA has provided partial funding for both the N.J. Vietnam Veterans' and the Korean War Memorials.

Also on the facility site, is a VA Clinic that provides out-patient services to community veterans. Construction of the new facility requires the demolition of the existing clinic's building. Recently a location at the facility has been tentatively identified to provide the veterans community with an interim VA Clinic.

# World War II Memorials Updates

## New Jersey's World War II Memorial Commission Announces Location and Plan for New Memorial

By Stephen G. Abel, Administrator for Cemeteries, Monuments, Memorials and Museums, NJDMAVA

On August 16, the NJ World War II Memorial Commission approved the working plan for their final report. In letters to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Commission made recommendations that addressed the need, location, design, funding of the construction, and long-term maintenance of the memorial.

The Commission unanimously believes that a Memorial honoring our World War II veterans is needed. They

believe that such a Memorial should be incorporated into a veterans' park that already is being planned for a state-owned piece of land in Jersey City. The Memorial should be designed so that it is an integral part of the park and the Commission should be given the authority and responsibility to approve the final design of the Memorial. They recommend that the Memorial construction be funded through a state appropriation as well as corporate and private donations. The city of Jersey City, via a lease agreement, will provide maintenance of the Memorial.

The Commission also approved the

schematic design for the Memorial at a design workshop that also was held on August 16. The designer expects to submit the final design for the Memorial in early January 2002, construction should begin during the fourth quarter of 2002, and the Memorial should be completed by the fourth quarter of 2003 barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The Commission also recommended that the legislature authorize a New Jersey World War II Memorial Fund so that the Commission could accept donations. They also recommended that the Memorial be included to the States Tax Check-off Program.

## National WW II Memorial to Begin Construction



Compiled from the *The National World War II Memorial Campaign*

President Bush signed HR 1696 into law on Memorial Day, clearing the way for construction of the National World War II Memorial. Congress passed the legislation overwhelmingly, approving construction of the memorial on its dedicated Rainbow Pool site on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The American Battle Monuments

Commission announced that a \$56 million contract to build the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., has been awarded to the joint venture of Tompkins Builders and Grunley-Walsh Construction.

Tompkins Builders, established in Washington, D.C., in 1911, is the third

largest general contractor in the Washington Metropolitan area. Grunley Construction and Walsh Construction, both headquartered in Rockville, Md., trace their roots to the Grunley-Walsh Construction Company founded in 1955.

Some of the construction and renovation projects the companies have participated in collectively include the Washington

Monument, the Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, the Reflecting Pool, and the U.S. Capitol Building.

The memorial was authorized by Congress in 1993, the site was approved and dedicated in 1995, and the final architectural design was approved last fall.

On-site construction work is expected to begin this summer. The construction project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2004.



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For a free subscription to this newsletter please fill out the information below including answering the three questions at the bottom and mail this form to:

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## New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal (NJDSM) was originally issued in 1858 for those who had distinguished themselves in the New Jersey Militia, but was infrequently used until re-authorized by Governor Kean in 1988.

After the Spanish American War, the Mexican Border Expedition and again after World War I, the State of New Jersey minted special medals for returning New Jersey veterans to honor their service. After World War II and subsequent combat actions no such medal was available. The State of New Jersey was looking for an appropriate way to honor all of these returning combat veterans and acknowledge the debt the state owed them for their service. The NJ DSM was then authorized for that purpose. It is New Jersey's highest military award. Since its re-authorization in 1988, more than 4,000 medals have

been awarded to New Jersey combat veterans.

"The New Jersey veterans receiving the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal are a credit to our state and our nation. Their sacrifice and their bravery in combat is truly deserving of New Jersey's highest military award. The award also serves as a great way to thank our veterans for their extraordinary achievements while our nation has been at war," said Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco.

In order to be eligible for the Distinguished Service Medal you must meet all the following criteria:

- ~ currently be a resident of New Jersey
- ~ have been a resident of New Jersey at the time you entered into military service
- ~ have been honorably discharged
- ~ have proof of having served in

combat while on active duty during wartime.

Those recipients whose service was recognized by the award of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent medal will receive a NJDSM with an oak leaf cluster.

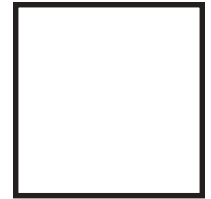
The NJDSM can be awarded posthumously to the next-of-kin of a veteran who meets the criteria.

Anyone interested in applying for the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal should send a written request together with copies of all pertinent information, discharge document (e.g. DD 214 ), award citation, honorable discharge, etc. to:

NJDMAVA  
ATTN: CIO-GS-PA  
P.O. Box 340  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0340

Be sure to include full name, home address and daytime telephone number.

State of New Jersey  
Department of Military and  
Veteran Affairs - PAOV  
PO Box 340, Eggert Crossing Road  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340



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## New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Veterans Service Offices

### Newark Liaison Office

20 Washington Place  
Newark 07102  
(973)648-2849 or 645-3596

### Atlantic/Cape May

1601 Atlantic Ave. Suite 602  
Atlantic City 08401  
(609) 441-3060/3061

### Burlington

Mt. Laurel Corporate Center  
1000 Howard Blvd., Suite 301  
Mt. Laurel 08054  
(856) 787-3820/3821

### Camden/Gloucester

215 Crown Point Rd.  
Suite 300  
Thorofare 08086  
(856) 853-4184/4185/4186

### Mercer

142 W. State St., CN 671  
Trenton 08625  
(609) 292-5880/5881

### Monmouth

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320  
Asbury Park 07712  
(732) 775-7009/7005

### Morris/Sussex

5 South Park Drive  
Newton 07860  
(973) 383-4949/1363

### Dover

(Wednesdays only)  
(973) 366-8347

### Ocean

James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic  
970 Route 70  
Brick 08724  
(732) 840-3033/3034

### Passaic

100 Hamilton Plaza, 6th Floor  
Paterson 07505  
(973) 977-4050/4051/4556

### Salem/Cumberland

524 Northwest Blvd.  
Vineland 08360  
(856) 696-6452/6445/6451

### Bergen

Center City Plaza  
60 State Street  
Hackensack 07601  
(201) 996-8050/8051

### Essex/Union

1196 Chestnut Street  
Elizabeth 07201  
(908) 820-3134/3133

### Middlesex/Somerset

711 Jersey Avenue  
New Brunswick 08901  
(732) 937-6347/6348/6349

### Hudson

3rd Floor, Room 302  
438 Summit Avenue  
Jersey City 07306  
(201) 798-7040/7051/7026

### Warren/Hunterdon

550 Route 57  
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(908) 689-5840/5845


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DEPARTMENT OF  
MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

**1-800-624-0508**

 Donald T. DiFrancesco  
Acting Governor  
Commander in Chief |  Michael L. Nisner  
Deputy Commissioner  
for Veterans Affairs |  Paul L. Glaser  
Major General  
The Adjutant General