

AUGUST 2019

V
E
T
E
R
A
N
J
O
U
R
N
A
L

19 MAY 49 - 29 JUL 69
JOHN J LAVELLE
30 SEP 50 - 29 JUL 70



USS FORRESTAL
CVA-59
Philippines
COMMERCIAL CRUISE 1967
onkin Gulf - Vietnam

CONTENTS

- 2 Remembrance
- 3 June 12 designated Women Veterans Appreciation Day
- 5 On this day
- 6 Homes observe Memorial Day
- 7 100th anniversary honors veterans
- 8 Volunteers recognized
- 9 Great Race comes to Vineland
- 10 Mission remembers 30 veterans
- 12 Diversion mentors complete training
- 13 Stand Down 2018
- 15 Armistice ceremony held at Memorial
- 16 Baker receives car
- 17 Luncheon recognizes veterans
- 18 Suliman returns home
- 19 Ceremonies honor Vietnam vets
- 21 American Legion awards Airman
- 22 D-Day anniversary observed
- Back cover: Veterans Service Offices



VETERAN JOURNAL

Governor Phil Murphy

Brig. Gen. Jemal J. Beale
The Adjutant General of New Jersey

Dr. Mark A. Piferski
Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Lt. Col. Barbara G. Brown
State Public Affairs Officer

Editor
Mark C. Olsen

Staff Writers/Photographers
Kryn P. Westhoven
Master Sgt. Matt Hecht

VETERAN JOURNAL is an official publication of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is intended to serve New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends, concerned individuals, and groups. All correspondence should be sent to: Veteran Journal Editor, NJDMAVA/PA, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

**WHEN YOU SEE THESE LOGOS,
CLICK THEM TO SEE MORE
PHOTOS OR VIDEOS**



COVER: Honor

A New Jersey Vietnam Veteran remembers a fallen comrade during the annual New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Holmdel, N.J., May 7, 2018. The Memorial honors the 1,563 New Jerseyans who died during the Vietnam War. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

REMEMBRANCE



U.S. Army Maj. Monica M. DeLaCruz, Joint Force Headquarters – Army, New Jersey Army National Guard, pauses in front of a gravestone at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., May 25, 2019. More than 2,100 New Jersey Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Brownies placed nearly 60,000 American Flags on the graves May 24. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

June 12 designated Women Veterans Appreciation Day



Lt. Gov. Sheila Y. Oliver, seated, presents one of the pens used to sign the resolution designating June 12 as Women Veterans Appreciation Day in New Jersey to Sgt. Samira T. Houston, New Jersey Army National Guard, during the ceremony at the Prudential Tower, Newark, N.J., June 12, 2019. Oliver was serving as acting governor on June 12. There are more than 25,000 women veterans in New Jersey. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)



New Jersey Women Veterans Appreciation Month



Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver signed Senate Joint Resolution No. 114 into law, designating June 12 of each year as Women Veterans Appreciation Day in New Jersey.

“Women have continually protected our rights and liberties throughout the history of the United States,” said Oliver. “We are thrilled to acknowledge the increasing number of women serving in our military, and proud to show our appreciation for the state’s upstanding women veterans.”

The ceremony was held at the Prudential Tower in Newark, June 12. Oliver was serving as acting governor.

“New Jersey is lucky to be home to many women who have put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms,” said Gov. Phil Murphy. “These women have proudly served our nation, and now their extraordinary dedication to our state and country will be commemorated each year.”

Primary sponsors of the bill include State Senators Kristin Corrado and Linda Greenstein, and State Assembly members Cleopatra Tucker, Valerie Vainieri Huttle, and Wayne DeAngelo.

At the federal level, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Mikie Sherrill, Vice Chair, Congressional Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus; introduced a bipartisan resolution designating June 12 as Women Veterans Appreciation Day nationally.

“From serving as combat helicopter pilots in Afghanistan to disguising themselves as male soldiers during the American Revolution and the Civil War, women have served our country with valor and honor since our nation’s inception,” said Booker. “Marking June 12 every year as Women Veterans Appreciation Day is a fitting recognition for their selfless sacrifice. To the nearly two million women currently serving in our Armed Forces today and to the many that came before them – thank you for your dutiful service and commitment to this country’s freedom.”

“Too often, female veterans do not seek care at the VA or even identify themselves as veterans. New Jersey is leading the way to make sure servicewomen are not only recognized for their contributions to the armed forces, but that their voices are heard,” said Sherrill. “I applaud all the veterans, stakeholders, and officials who came together to mark June 12th as Women Veterans Appreciation Day in New Jersey. Senator Booker and I are proud to champion this effort at the federal level.”

“While all veterans are unique and treasured for their service, women have a special place in our military,” said Adjutant General Jemal Beale. “They are the only members of our society that has not been drafted; hence, they willingly volunteered to serve our nation. We thank our women veterans for their service.”

“Women’s contributions in the military have drastically expanded with each passing decade,” said Deputy Adjutant General Col. Lisa Hou, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. “Women were initially limited to serving as nurses or clerks. Now, women are seen in every military occupational specialty and continue to achieve milestones in positions that were once thought attainable only by men. It is my hope that this designated day will shine the light on women’s achievements in the military and bring further awareness of women veterans.”

Right: The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs released a poster highlighting New Jersey women veterans and the impact they have had on the state and nation since the revolutionary war. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs illustration by Mark C. Olsen)

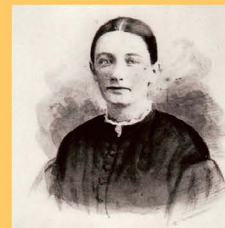
REVOLUTIONARY WAR

MARY LUDWIG HAYS ACHIEVED FAME DURING THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH. IN JUNE 1778, WHILE PROVIDING WATER FOR THE GUNNERS, HER HUSBAND COLLAPSED. SHE TOOK HIS PLACE AND CONTINUED TO SWAB AND LOAD THE CANNON. BY EVENING THE BATTLE HAD ENDED AND THE BRITISH HAD RETREATED TO SANDY HOOK. GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON MADE HAYS A NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER. FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE, SHE WAS KNOWN AS SERGEANT MOLLY. SHE WAS THE BASIS FOR MOLLY PITCHER, A NICKNAME GIVEN TO WOMEN WHO CARRIED WATER TO SOLDIERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.



VIETNAM WAR

U.S. ARMY CAPTAIN ELEANOR GRACE ALEXANDER OF RIVER VALE JOINED THE ARMY NURSE CORPS IN MAY 1967 AND WAS COMMISSIONED AS A CAPTAIN. IN JUNE, ALEXANDER WAS ASSIGNED AS AN OPERATING ROOM NURSE WITH THE 85TH EVACUATION HOSPITAL, 44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE, IN QUI NHON, VIETNAM, FOR A SIX-MONTH ROTATION. A COLLEAGUE RECALLED THAT “ROCKY,” AS ALEXANDER BECAME KNOWN, WAS “TOP NOTCH, NEVER GOT KATTLED.” DURING THE BATTLE OF DIAK TO, THE 85TH SENT A MEDICAL TEAM TO PLEIKU. ALEXANDER VOLUNTEERED TO TAKE ANOTHER NURSE’S PLACE ON THE MISSION. WHEN THE TEAM RETURNED NOVEMBER 30, 1967, THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED INTO A MOUNTAINSIDE KILLING ALL ON BOARD. ALEXANDER IS THE ONLY WOMAN FROM NEW JERSEY KILLED IN ACTION AND IS ONE OF EIGHT WOMEN LISTED ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



CIVIL WAR

CORNELIA HANCOCK, KNOWN AS THE “FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE OF AMERICA,” WAS BORN AT HANCOCK’S BRIDGE IN 1840. IN 1863, HANCOCK TRAVELED TO GETTYSBURG IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE AS A VOLUNTEER NURSE, AND SERVED THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE CIVIL WAR. AFTER THE WAR, SHE TAUGHT FREED SLAVES AT MOUNT PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND SERVED AS A PIONEERING SOCIAL WORKER IN PHILADELPHIA. HANCOCK PASSED AWAY IN ATLANTIC CITY, DECEMBER 31, 1927. HER WARTIME LETTERS WERE PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM AND ARE AN IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR HISTORY SOURCE.



TRAINING CENTER CAPE MAY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER CAPE MAY PROVIDES THE COAST GUARD ITS ENTIRE ENLISTED WORKFORCE OF SEAMEN AND FIREFIGHTERS. EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 4,000 WOMEN AND MEN BEGIN THEIR COAST GUARD CAREER AT THE CENTER. WOMEN COMPRISE 22 PERCENT OF OFFICERS AND 13 PERCENT OF ENLISTED RANKS. THE COAST GUARD IS PART OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND IS THE LEAD FEDERAL MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CHARGED WITH ENFORCING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE HIGH SEAS. ITS MISSIONS RANGE FROM NATIONAL DEFENSE, MARINE SAFETY, TO SEARCH AND RESCUE.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

CLARA LOUISE MAASS WAS BORN IN NEWARK TO GERMAN IMMIGRANT PARENTS IN 1876. MAASS GRADUATED FROM THE NEWARK GERMAN HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING AND BECAME AN ARMY CONTRACT NURSE DURING THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR. WHILE SERVING IN CUBA AFTER THE CONFLICT, SHE VOLUNTEERED TO BE BITTEN BY A MOSQUITO IN THE EFFORT TO FIND A CURE FOR YELLOW FEVER. SHE CONTRACTED THE DISEASE AND DIED AUGUST 24, 1901. HER BODY WAS RETURNED TO NEWARK, WHERE SHE WAS BURIED WITH MILITARY HONORS IN FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY. IN 1952, THE NEWARK GERMAN HOSPITAL, WHICH HAD BEEN RENAMED NEWARK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THEN LUTHERAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WAS RENAMED CLARA MAASS HOSPITAL IN HER HONOR.



FIRST IN NATION

U.S. AIR FORCE CAPTAIN LEAH MURAKAMI WAS THE FIRST ASIAN FEMALE FIGHTER PILOT IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND THE FIRST FEMALE F-16 PILOT ASSIGNED TO THE 177TH FIGHTER WING AT THE ATLANTIC CITY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE. MURAKAMI JOINED THE AIR FORCE RESERVES IN FEBRUARY 1991, AND TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD IN SEPTEMBER 1995.



WORLD WAR II

U.S. WOMEN’S MARINE CORPS RESERVES CORPORAL ALICE FAY GALLUP CLOUTIER ENLISTED MARCH 20, 1943. AFTER COMPLETING BASIC TRAINING, CLOUTIER WAS TRANSFERRED TO CAMP LEJEUNE, THE MARINE CORPS TRAINING BASE IN NORTH CAROLINA, WHERE SHE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE CAMP COMMUNICATIONS SECTION SWITCHBOARD WHERE SHE WORKED WITH A GROUP OF WOMEN PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED BY BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY. CLOUTIER WAS DISCHARGED SEPTEMBER 27, 1945 AND WAS AWARDED THE AMERICAN CAMPAIGN AND WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDALS. MORE THAN 10,000 NEW JERSEY WOMEN SERVED IN THE MILITARY, MOST NOTABLY MARINE CORPS WOMEN RESERVES COMMANDER RUTH CHENEY STREETER OF MORRISTOWN.



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

U.S. ARMY COLONEL LORETTA THOMAS WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO COMMAND A NEW JERSEY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT – THE 25TH SIGNAL BATTALION – IN IRAQ. SHE WAS ALSO THE FIRST WOMAN TO COMMAND THE JOINT TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST.

WAVES

U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN JOY BRIGHT HANCOCK OF WILDWOOD WAS A VETERAN OF BOTH WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II. SHE ENLISTED AS A YEOMAN IN FEBRUARY 1918 AND SERVED AT THE CAMDEN SHIPYARD AND AT NAVAL AIR STATION WILDWOOD. AFTER THE WAR, SHE WORKED FOR THE NAVY BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS AS A CIVILIAN UNTIL JUNE 1942 WHEN SHE WAS COMMISSIONED AS A LIEUTENANT IN THE NAVY AS PART OF THE WAVES (WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE). SHE SERVED AS THE LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND THE WAVES. SHE BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF THE WAVES IN FEBRUARY 1946 AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE PASSAGE OF THE WOMEN ARMED SERVICES INTEGRATION ACT OF 1948, WHICH CREATED A PERMANENT PLACE FOR WOMEN IN THE PEACE TIME MILITARY. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SIX WOMEN SWORN INTO THE REGULAR NAVY THAT SAME YEAR. HANCOCK RETIRED AS THE WAVES DIRECTOR JULY 1, 1953. IN 1987, THE CAPT. JOY BRIGHT HANCOCK LEADERSHIP AWARD WAS ESTABLISHED, WHICH HONORS NAVY WOMEN WHOSE IDEALS AND DEDICATION FOSTER A POSITIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT WHILE REINFORCING AND FURTHERING THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE NAVY.



FIRST GENERAL IN NJ GUARD

MAJOR GENERAL MARIA FALCA-DODSON WAS THE FIRST NEW JERSEY WOMAN GENERAL OFFICER AND THE FIRST WOMAN DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL AT THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS. FALCA-DODSON BEGAN HER MILITARY CAREER IN 1980 WHEN SHE WAS COMMISSIONED AS A FIRST LIEUTENANT WITH THE 108TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING, NEW JERSEY AIR NATIONAL GUARD. IN 1998, SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF COMMANDER, 108TH AIR REFUELING WING MEDICAL GROUP. FALCA-DODSON SERVED FOR SEVEN YEARS AS THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.



ON THIS DAY

Story and photo by Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Public Affairs Office

At a time when many Americans have trouble knowing the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day, it might be worth recalling the words President Theodore Roosevelt Jr. spoke on May 30, 1902.

“We call to mind the deaths of those who died that the nation might live.”

On May 25, Congressman Andy Kim, 3rd District, New Jersey, and Gov. Philip D. Murphy were joined by veteran service organization representatives, Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard, and more than 1,200 attendees at the annual state Memorial Day Ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J.

The scene was similar to one from 151 years earlier.

On May 30, 1868, the first observation of Decoration Day – the precursor to Memorial Day – was held at Arlington National Cemetery. On

that day, 5,000 people attended the ceremony and placed small American flags on each grave — a tradition continued at many cemeteries today.

Decoration Day was the idea of John A. Logan, the second commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans. On May 5, he issued a proclamation

calling for Decoration Day to be held annually on May 30. It would be a time to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead with flowers.

“We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance...Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and

undivided republic,” said Logan.

“Some of those whom we remember today helped build this nation from whole cloth, while others, barely 80 years later, helped mend a fraying American tapestry and preserve the Union,” said Murphy.

Since that first Decoration Day, Logan’s vision of America honoring

its fallen service members continues.

“Through their families and loved ones, we posthumously thank them for their service, and commit to holding them in the esteem they earned, as we do all our cherished fallen soldiers,” said Murphy.

In 1871, Michigan became the first state to make Decoration Day an official state holiday. By the end

of the century, ceremonies were being held throughout the country. It was after World War I, the day was expanded to honor all who had died in all of America’s wars. By the end of World War II, Memorial Day had all but replaced Decoration Day.

“Some of those whom we remember today helped save the world from tyranny in two world wars – and we remember, poignantly, the Greatest Generation, whose surviving members are all too quickly leaving us,” said Murphy.

Memorial Day is a call for the nation to remember, recognize, and honor the ultimate sacrifice made by fallen Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen. It is an opportunity to remember their lives, their courage, their legacy, and their service.

“We remember today those who left us only recently, having served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and some of whom were drawn to the call of service after seeing friends, neighbors, and even strangers, killed

on September 11, 2001,” said Murphy.

New Jersey is home to more than 340,000 veterans. More than 75,000 service members and their spouses are buried at Doyle.

“Regardless of their rank or their station in life, all of them rest as equals on the same sacred mantle,” said Murphy.



Two U.S Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons with the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, fly overhead while members of the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Joint Color Guard stand at attention during the annual State Memorial Day ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., May 25, 2019.

HOMES OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY

Photos by Kryn P. Westhoven
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans
Affairs Public Affairs Office



Above: Residents, staff, and members of the Coast Guard Petty Officers Association render honors during the Memorial Day observance at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland May 22, 2019. **Below:** Residents enjoy a barbecue hosted by the Home's staff after the ceremony. **Bottom:** Remembrance wreaths float in the memorial pond.



New Jersey's three Veteran Memorial Homes each held Memorial Day ceremonies on or before the observance on May 27 this year. The Homes' focus was honoring those residents that had died since the last Memorial Day. At the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, Greg Osborne, resident council president, rung a bell as each name was read aloud on May 22. If a family member was not present, members of the Coast Guard Petty Officers Association placed a wreath in a memorial pond. After the ceremony, a barbecue was held for the residents. The tables featured flowers pots made by the residents and flowers grown in their greenhouse.

The multi-purpose room at the Paramus Veterans Home was filled with residents and family members remembering those who passed on May 23. Red, white and blue carnations were placed below a wreath by family or staff as each name was read.

On Memorial Day, the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home town square was the site for their remembrance. Scouts from Troop and Pack 523 of Colonia were on hand to place red carnations for those residents that did not have family members in the audience.



Above: Residents and family members place carnations in memory of loved ones during the Memorial Day ceremony at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park May 27, 2019.



Above: Residents, staff, and family members sing the national anthem during the Memorial Day observance at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus May 23, 2019. **Left:** A resident places carnations in memory of friends who had passed since last Memorial Day.

100TH ANNIVERSARY HONORS VETERANS

Story and photos by Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office



One hundred years ago, the world took a collective breath.

At 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918, the armistice between the Allies and the Germany went into effect, and after four years, three months, and 16 days, the first global war had ended.

One hundred years later, the state Veterans Day ceremony was held in Trenton at the War Memorial dedicated to the memory of the Mercer County Soldiers and Sailors who died in that war. In the passage to the lobby, the names of the dead are inscribed on a set of four bronze tablets. The inscription accompanying the tablets reads: "We shall never war except for peace."

The ceremony began with Governor Philip D. Murphy, Brig. Gen. Jemal J. Beale, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, along with leadership from the state's veterans organizations, ringing a bell 21 times, representing a 21-gun salute to the nations' fallen.

Also acknowledged were the 340,561

Above, Brig. Gen. Jemal J. Beale, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, addresses the audience during the State Veterans Day ceremony at the War Memorial in Trenton, N.J., Nov. 11, 2018. Below: New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy rings the bell during the ceremony. The bell was rung 21 times symbolizing the 21-gun salute, the highest military honor rendered by the nation.



veterans who call New Jersey home.

Because this was the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, New Jersey's participation in that war, as well as the ensuing conflicts was recognized.

More than two million Americans served overseas, with approximately 140,000 New Jerseyans serving in the Army, Marines, and Navy. For the New Jersey National Guard, this was their first-ever overseas deployment.

By the end of World War I, a

major shift in public attitudes toward war had occurred. Nearly all the nations involved had suffered devastating losses. War was no longer romanticized – the absent seats at the dinner table and the wounded veterans seen on the streets were a constant reminder of the "mud, blood and futility" of war.

While there is no true accurate number of deaths, it is estimated that 19 million soldiers and 21 million civilians died.

The war became the crossroads between new technologies and old tactics, which resulted in long and costly battles. In some cases, the ground gained was measured in the hundreds of lives lost.

The battle of Verdun lasted 303 days and cost the lives of more than 300,000 soldiers.

The Douaumont ossuary at Verdun contains the remains of more than 130,000 dead. The memorial lists no names because the continuous artillery bombardment – 65 million



Veterans' organization leaders listen to New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way during the State Veterans Day ceremony. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Veterans Day celebrates and honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

artillery shells fired – left no remains behind that could be identified. It was World War I that gave rise to national monuments containing the body of one unidentified soldier.

And while the United States' involvement in the war lasted 19 months, more than 100,000 American service members died.

"While we rejoice that our losses were no heavier we still bear in mind the thousands of homes throughout the country upon which the heavy burden of war has fallen," said Secretary of War Newton D. Baker.

With that background, it almost became imperative to recognize veterans.

On Nov. 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first commemoration of Armistice Day, which Congress changed to Veterans Day on June 1, 1954.

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory..." said Wilson.

Since 1919, Veterans Day honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

“Each day I appreciate every one of you in the audience more and more,” said Dr. Lisa J. Hou, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. “You are the reason our homes are so special.”

Hou spoke at the annual New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland volunteer luncheon April 5 at the Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove.

Volunteerism at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home comes together as a mixture of 320 organizations and 622 individual volunteers, which also includes students and members of the clergy. In 2018, Vineland volunteers collectively worked 43,201 individual hours. That is equal to more than \$1.1 million dollars in saved wages.



Dr. Lisa J. Hou, standing left, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, meets with a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 126 during the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland’s annual volunteer luncheon at the Centerton Country Club in Pittsgrove, N.J., April 5, 2019.



Presidential Service Award recipients pose for a photo after the Home’s annual volunteer luncheon. At the luncheon, volunteers and organizations were honored

for 43,201 hours donated to the Home’s residents, which equates to \$1,153,466 dollars in manpower hours saved.

Story and photos by Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Public Affairs Office

During the luncheon individual volunteers were recognized.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 827, Southern Golf Tournament Committee received the Group of the Year award.

The Project of the Year was presented to Darryl Reid Past State Commander, American Legion Department of New Jersey, for the Old Glory Courtyard Project and to the Nostalgia Knights and SJ Cruisers

is deaf, taught him sign language and created the Team Cole Project to teach children about special needs animals and empathy for others.

Monetary donations received from the community and organizations totaled \$128,496. These included \$36,400 dollars in prizes for 980 competitive events like bingo, card games and game shows. These organizations also donate items other than cash, which



Dr. Lisa J. Hou, center, deputy commissioner for veterans affairs, and Sean VanLew, Sr., right, director, Veterans Healthcare Services, both with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presents Christopher Hannah, left, and Nicole Hannah of the Team Cole Project, and Cole the Official Mascot Award during the Home’s annual volunteer luncheon.

for their Canteen Restoration Project.

The Volunteer of the Year award went to Ellen R. Tesoroni and Belinda Hunter. In a special presentation, Cole, an American Bulldog mix, was made the Home’s official mascot. Christopher and Nicole Hannah adopted Cole, who

come in the form of items such as non-skid socks to durable medical equipment; from wheelchairs or scooters, to the latest in electronics.

“Your compassion is the soul of this facility, said Hou. “Your kindness puts smiles on our veterans’ faces.”

Great Race comes to Vineland

Story and photos by Kryn P. Westhoven
New Jersey Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

Jeff Mahl recounts the New York to Paris Great Automobile Race at the auditorium at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homeland at Vineland Oct. 1, 2018.



Vineland Veterans Memorial Home residents learned about a test of men and machines, a feat that has never been duplicated.

In the home's auditorium, Oct. 1, 2018, Jeff Mahl brought to life the dawn of the automobile by recounting the New York to Paris Great Automobile Race. Mahl narrated the story from the perspective of the race's winner, his great-grandfather, George N. Schuster, driver and chief mechanic of the winning American Thomas Flyer.

Mahl's presentation at the home was sponsored by Jewish War Veterans Post 126 in Cherry Hill.

To give an idea of some of the difficulties the drivers encountered, Mahl asked how many of the residents had driven a car without power steering or an automatic transmission. With that perspective, he then detailed the difficulties of the epic 22,000-mile, 169-day journey in a time when cars were a novelty and few paved roads existed.

The race had teams from Germany, France, and Italy. President Theodore Roosevelt wanted an American automobile company to enter. According to Mahl, both Henry Ford and Ransom Olds said no, but the E.R. Thomas Motor Company in Buffalo, N.Y.,

agreed to take on the challenge.

As the Thomas Motor Company's chief mechanic, Schuster was aboard the 1907 Thomas Flyer as it left New York's Times Square for Paris Feb. 12, 1908.

Most thought the six cars would not get past Chicago, but the teams persevered and Schuster was the first person to ever drive an automobile across the United States in the winter when he arrived in San Francisco.

With ten feet of snow blocking their passage from Canada to Alaska, the teams abandoned crossing the frozen Bering Strait to Russia and traveled by ship to the port of Vladivostok.

Using the Trans-Siberian railroad as the route and lifeline for supplies of tires and fuel, the teams braved the cold heading toward France. At one point, Schuster drove 32-hours straight in order to catch up to a German team during the trek across Siberia.

Once they entered the city of Paris, the Thomas Flyer almost didn't make it to the Eiffel Tower as a Parisian police officer stopped the car for having one working headlight. A local resident offered the headlight from his bicycle, but Schuster could not remove it. So he just strapped the bike to

the hood of the Flyer and he triumphantly crossed the finish line on July 30, 1908.

"My great-grandfather, was the oldest driver in the race at 35 years old," said Mahl, adding his years as a mechanic proved invaluable to the American team. That detailed knowledge of the Thomas Flyer would lead to the car being restored many years later.

On the Great Race's 50th anniversary, Schuster penned a first person account that appeared in Readers Digest. That story piqued the interest of Bill Harrah, the casino magnate and avid car collector. The Harrah's Automobile Collection found the car on Long Island, N.Y. and at 91 years of age, Schuster headed to museum to validate the find.

Mahl said his great-grandfather was skeptical that it was the winning car, as he believed that the Thomas Flyer was scrapped for its metal years before. As Schuster examined the car, he noticed a piece of the metal from a Siberian rail yard he had bolted on the chassis in order to continue in the race. That repair, a modified clutch pedal and other details confirmed the cars authenticity.

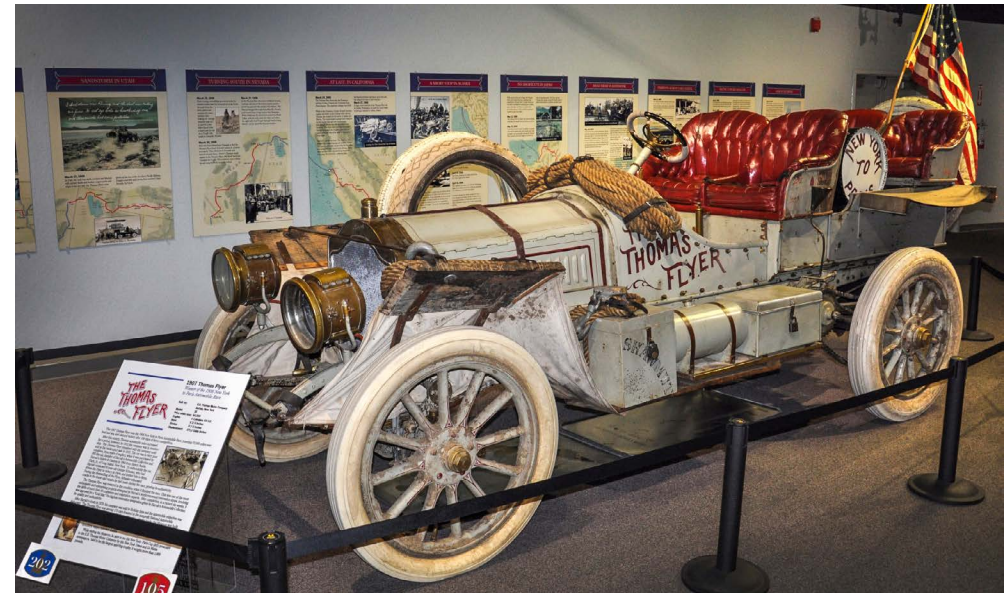
Today, the 1907 Thomas Flyer is on display

at the National Automobile Museum in Reno, Nevada. Normally the Harrah's collection restorers bring the vehicles back to showroom quality. For the Thomas Flyer, the significance of the auto's appearance was when it finished the race, not when it left the factory.

Once the car was put back together, they drove the Flyer in the of Nevada desert to get the weathered look to the body. Then Harrah hired Walt Disney's staff to add finishing touches, like faux mud on the wheels along with recreating the initials carved into the paint by Siberian residents.

Mahl shared with his audience a passion for his great-grandfather recollections of race and the car that changed the course of automotive history more than a century ago. "I encourage you to share your stories with your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren," said Mahl.

In 2018, Mahl driving his 1929 Ford Model A Roadster pickup, set out to complete a modern day New York to Paris Great Race. The four antique automobiles made it to San Francisco before international clearances stopped the group before their Pacific Ocean crossing.



The restored 1907 Thomas Flyer on display at the National Automobile Museum in Reno, Nevada.

MISSION REMEMBERS 30 VETERANS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MARK C. OLSEN
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



The New Jersey Mission of Honor (NJMOH) Firing Squad fires a volley during the 29th NJMOH ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at North Hanover Township, N.J., June 21, 2018.

No one is forgotten, no one is left behind.



The New Jersey Mission of Honor (NJMOH) held three ceremonies at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery at North Hanover Township, N.J., in 2018.

The lives of 30 veterans were recognized at the ceremonies and their cremated remains – cremains –

were finally put to rest.

These veterans had not died recently; just the opposite, most had died anywhere from 10 to 40 years ago.

The one thing they had in common was they had sat unclaimed on the shelves of the funeral homes because they had no family or close relatives to claim them.

NJMOH's mission is to identify, retrieve, and intern those cremains. Since organization's founding in 2007, 568 veterans have been located due to their efforts. Of those, 316 cremains have been reunited with their families.

And for those who no longer have families, the NJMOH becomes their family.

At the 27th NJMOH ceremony, held May 24, the cremains of seven World War II veterans – James M. Bey, Walter R. Checks, Herbert L. Felder, Leroy J. Jefferson, John G. Leake, Wesley Ross, and Charles R. Upshaw Sr., one Korean veteran, Booker Tullis Sr., one Vietnam veteran Samuel F. Dorsey Jr., and one Cold War era veteran Willie E. Slater, were honored.

On June 14, the cremains of seven World War II veterans Geoffrey N. Barrow, Henry Brandon and wife, Willa Mae; Arthur R. Callan, James Grant Sr., Theodore R. Jackson Jr., Monroe E. Morris, and Charlie Waters; two Vietnam veterans Johnny W. Morgan and Gilbert J. Shelton, and one Cold War era veteran Leland D. Bey, were recognized at the ceremony.

And a week later, the cremains of one World War I veteran Joseph P. Bey, two World War II veterans Arthur L. Hodges and James C. Warren, two Korean War veterans Wilbur J. Pierce and Claude Robinson, three Vietnam War veterans Joseph F. Boone Jr., Malachia Rich Jr., and Wilbert E. Smith; and two Cold War era veterans Carson D. Johnson Sr. and Mufeed Ali Muhammad, were honored during the ceremony.

Prior to each ceremony, the NJMOH researches the veterans' lives and assembles a biography, which



becomes part of the eulogy.

At the beginning of each service, Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen with the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery Honor Guard carry the urns containing the cremains and American flags, which are placed on a table in front of the attendees.

Following the eulogies and

remarks from dignitaries, a firing squad fires a three volley salute while a bugler plays taps.

While the New Jersey Mission of Honor cannot take the place of the veterans' families, they provide the recognition and honor that these veterans deserve for their service.

No one is forgotten and no one is left behind.





DIVERSION MENTORS COMPLETE TRAINING



The first Veterans Diversion Program mentors completed their training and were sworn in to August 10, 2018, at the New Jersey Army National Guard's Regional Training Institute at Sea Girt, N.J. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs conducted the day-long event and plans to hold the training twice a year to prepare volunteers to work with veterans that participate in the statewide diversion program run by each county's prosecutor office. Under the program, active and former service members who are charged with non-violent offenses, and are suffering from a mental condition related to their military service, may be eligible for diversion to mental health and rehabilitative treatment rather than face traditional criminal prosecution. Established in 2017, the Program offers access to counseling services for drugs or alcohol, job placement assistance, medical services and potential VA benefits to justice system-involved Veterans. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Kryn P. Westhoven)

"This is about rehabilitation. The Statewide Veterans Diversion Program is intended to support those men and women who have made physical and emotional sacrifices in the defense of the United States of America. While individuals may run afoul of the criminal justice system, our commitment to their well-being does not end at the court-house steps."

**Brig. Gen. Jemal J. Beale
The Adjutant General of New Jersey**



STAND Down 2018

STORY BY MARK C. OLSEN
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



U.S. Air force Staff Sgt. Natasha Campbell, a medical technician with the 108th Medical Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, takes a veteran's blood pressure during the North Jersey Stand Down at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center in Newark, N.J., Oct. 13, 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough)

STAND DOWNS HAVE AIDED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS AT MORE THAN 200 LOCATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING VETERANS THROUGHOUT NEW JERSEY.

Stand Down outreach events were held in Cherry Hill Sept. 21 and Newark Oct. 13, 2018.

Stand Down comes from the military term referring to exhausted combat units that were removed from the battlefield to a place of security and safety for rest and recovery.

This year's South Jersey Stand Down, which was held at the National Guard Armory, was renamed the Sgt. 1st Class Robert H. Yancey Sr., Stand Down. Yancey, an active member in the New Jersey veterans' community was a supporter of the South Jersey Stand Down program.

Volunteers from various veteran support organizations provided homeless veterans access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services, a haircut, and winter clothing.

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs supported the event with veterans' service officers and representatives from Veterans Haven South, the homeless veterans' transitional housing program in Winslow Township.



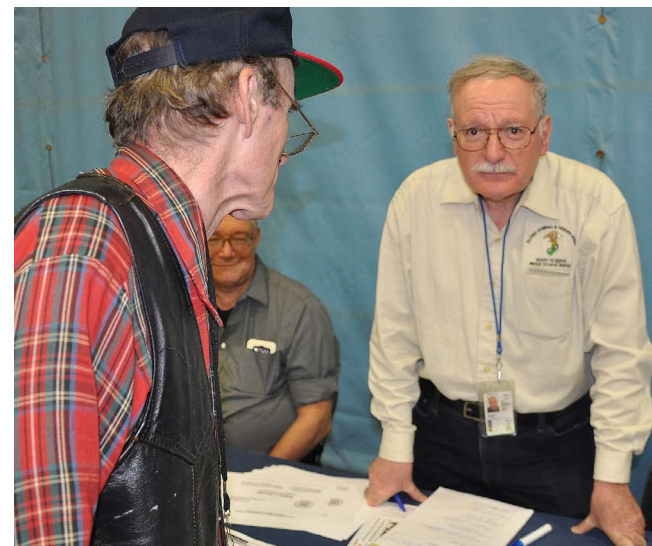
Volunteers hang a banner renaming the Stand Down of South Jersey the Sgt. 1st Class Robert H. Yancey Sr., Stand Down at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, N.J., Sept. 21, 2018. Yancey served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Kryn P. Westhoven)

Soldiers from the 250th Brigade Support Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, cooked for the veterans. Medical technicians from the 108th Medical Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, provided blood pressure and other medical checkups.

The first Stand Down was held in 1988 and was developed by Vietnam veterans Robert Van Keuren and Dr. Jon Nachison in San Diego. Stand Downs are grass roots, community-based assistance programs to help veterans' battle life on the streets and serve as a catalyst that enables homeless veterans to re-enter mainstream society. Stand Downs provide homeless veterans services such as medical care and assistance in a single location.



Volunteers provide veterans t-shirts and other clothing items at the Sgt. 1st Class Robert H. Yancey Sr., Stand Down in Cherry Hill. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Kryn P. Westhoven)



Above: Robert J. Maulano, a veteran service officer with the Division of Veterans Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, advises a veteran about his state and federal entitlements during the Stand Down of North Jersey at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center in Newark, N.J., Oct. 13, 2018. Below: U.S. Army Cpl. Brianna Armand, left, and Pfc. Lauren Supplice with the 250th Brigade Support Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, prepare a meal for the veterans attending the North Jersey Stand Down. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Sherwood Goodenough)



A volunteer gives a veteran an eye test during the Sgt. 1st Class Robert H. Yancey Sr., Stand Down. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Kryn P. Westhoven)

While New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers from the 119th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and Joint Force Headquarters cooked meals for the veterans, Airmen from the New Jersey Air National Guard's 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group performed medical evaluations and gave flu shots to 164 veterans that arrived for the event.

The North Stand Down was held at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center. Veterans received the same services and support as their south Jersey counterparts.



Armistice ceremony held at Memorial

Story by Mark C. Olsen, photo by Kryn P. Westhoven
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Public Affairs Office

The 66th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice was co-hosted by the New Jersey Korean War Veterans Association and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial on the Atlantic City boardwalk at Brighton Park July 26, 2019.

The ceremony featured a wreath laying ceremony by members of the Korean War Veterans Department of New Jersey, Korean War

Veterans Association (KWVA) Thomas W. Daley Jr. Chapter #54, KWVA Central Jersey Chapter #148, and KWVA Taejon Chapter # 170.

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950. Two days later, President Harry S. Truman ordered American forces to come to the aid of South Korea. Although 21 countries contributed to the United Nations force, 90 percent of the military personnel were American.

Armistice talks began on July 10, 1951 and

on July 27, 1953, the delegates signed 18 copies of the truce agreement and twelve hours later, the fighting ended.

The New Jersey Korean War Veterans Memorial was created to ensure that future generations remember and honor those who served and the freedom they preserved. More than 191,000 New Jerseyans served and 830 were killed.



BAKER RECEIVES CAR



Christmas came early for Veterans Haven South resident James Baker.

Baker, an Army Veteran who had served in South Korea, received a vehicle from Boggs Auto Body in Woodbury, N.J., Dec. 19, 2018. The donation came with insurance for a year.

This is the 15th year Jason Boggs, the body shop owner, has donated a vehicle to a veteran. Boggs Auto takes a donated vehicle, or one that is deemed totaled by insurance companies, repairs it, and gives it away for free to someone who needs a car.

The car was a total surprise to Baker, an Army Veteran and he called it a life changing day for him. Prior to receiving the car, Baker, who has a full time job, would take two, sometimes three, busses to get to work and home each day.

Veterans Haven South, a transitional housing program for homeless veterans operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is a drug and alcohol free program that treats and reintegrates homeless veterans back into society.



LUNCHEON RECOGNIZES VETERANS

Story and photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

New Jersey Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Jemal J. Beale, The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Dr. Lisa J. Hou, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, and New Jersey Assemblyman Edward H. Thomson, Legislative District 30, assisted in the presentation of legislative resolutions during the Veterans History Luncheon at the Manasquan Elks Lodge 2534, Manasquan, N.J., Oct. 30, 2018.

The resolutions recognized the military service of 22 New Jersey veterans who participated in the Veterans History Project, a satellite program of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, by recording their oral histories in 2018 at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, in Sea Girt, N.J.

Since 2001, local project director Carol Fowler has interviewed and archived 615 New Jersey

veterans' experiences of war and peacetime, ranging from World War II service to the present day. Veterans and Gold Star families are welcome to participate in the project by contacting the museum at (732) 974-5966 or completing a biographical questionnaire at <https://nj.gov/military/museum/oralhistoryform.html>.

The mission of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey is to preserve and explain the military heritage of New Jersey and enhance public understanding of how armed conflicts and military institutions have shaped the state and national experience. The museum collects, preserves and displays artifacts, documents, and memorabilia that have specific historical significance to the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, and the Naval Militia of New Jersey.



Sixty-eight years after U.S. Army Sgt. Frank J. Suliman disappeared in to a North Korean prisoner of war camp, his remains were buried with full military honors at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, N.J., April 30.

That afternoon, Soldiers with the New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard carried the casket past saluting members of the Edison Police and Fire Departments and the Rolling Thunder veterans support organization.

For years, Suliman's name was among the many names on the Courts of the Missing from the Korean War at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

For his sisters, Olga Anderson, Mary Yaverski, and brother Robert Suliman Sr., all they knew was that he had died of dysentery and pneumonia in a POW camp.

That all changed when the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, announced Jan. 15 that Suliman was accounted for.

Suliman's remains had been identified from the 55 boxes North Korea turned over July 27, 2018. The boxes were sent to the DPAA laboratory Aug. 1, 2018, for identification.

The identification was made from a lone femur bone.

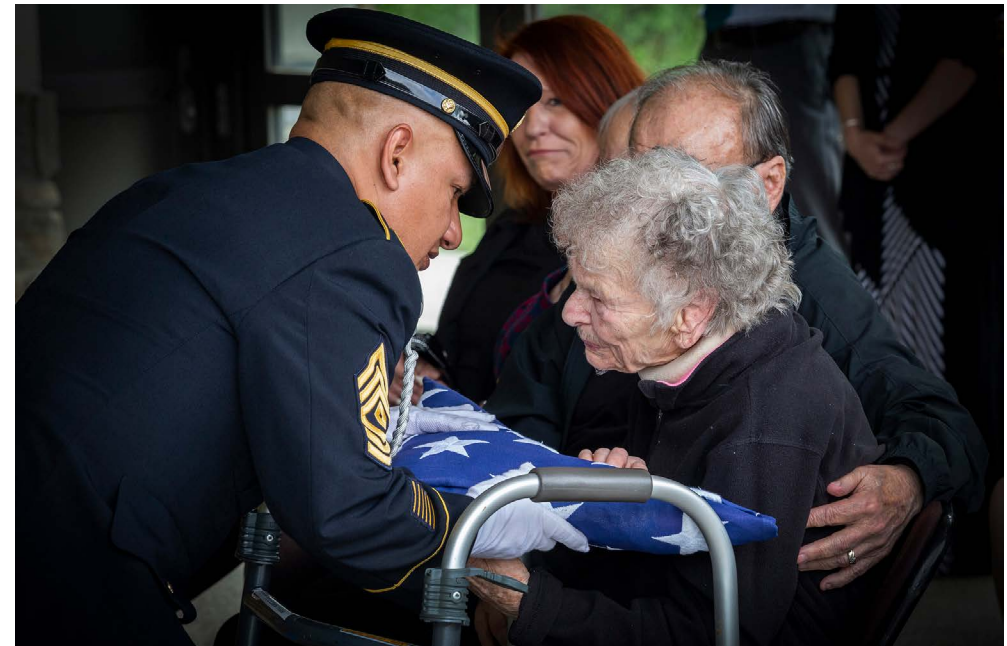
The DPAA gave Anderson, Yaverski, and Suliman a book detailing what happened to their brother.

In 1950, Suliman had been assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces in North Korea.

On Dec. 1, 1950, Suliman was in a convoy when it was stopped by a roadblock near Kunuri, North Korea. The Soldiers left their vehicles and while attempting to get around the road block, were captured and taken to a Chinese-run POW camp at Pukchin-Tarigol, North Korea. He died in March 1951. Service members who survived there, said that there was little food and disease was rampant.

Today, there are still 7,663 Americans unaccounted for from the Korean War.

However at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, a rosette has been placed next to Suliman's name indicating that he has finally been accounted for.



U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Luis A. Layme, left, New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard, presents Olga Anderson with her brother, U.S. Army Sgt. Frank J. Suliman's flag at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, N.J., April 30, 2019.

CEREMONIES HONOR VIETNAM VETS



Story and photos by Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Public Affairs Office

During the last week of March, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMVA) honored Vietnam War period veterans at ceremonies at the Department's three Veterans Homes, at Veterans Haven's South and North, and at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Approximately 250 veterans and a few surviving spouse and family members were recognized at the events.

The ceremonies were held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary commemoration of



Above: Dr. Lisa J. Hou, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, along with staff from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, addresses Vietnam veterans at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, N.J., March 25, 2019. left: Dr. Lisa J. Hou, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, left, and Brig. Gen. Wayne M. McCaughey, director of Joint Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard, present a Vietnam veteran his certificate during the ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Holmdel, N.J., March 29, 2019.

the Vietnam War. The commemoration was congressionally authorized in 2008 through the National Defense Authorization Act.

Beginning March 25, Dr. Lisa J. Hou, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, along with NJDMVA staff recognized 104 Vietnam veterans at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park and 46 at the Paramus Home.

Two days later, 53 veterans were honored at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland and three at

“All citizens of New Jersey must recognize the honorable service of the 119,910 men and women from New Jersey who served in the Southeast Asiatic Theater of Operation, and memorialize the 1,556 New Jerseyans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam conflict.” Vietnam War Veterans’ Day Proclamation



Vietnam veterans at Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner, N.J., render honors during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War March 28, 2019. The ceremony honored 13 Vietnam veterans.



Dr. Lisa J. Hou, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, presents a Vietnam veteran with his certificate at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, N.J., March 25, 2019.



time period with 119,910 served specifically in the Southeast Asiatic Theater of Operation.

The Vietnam War Period begins Nov. 1, 1955, with the start of the Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam, to May 15, 1975, which marks the end of the Vietnam War with the SS Mayaguez incident. March 29 was chosen as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because on the same day in 1973, Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated and the last combat troops left Vietnam. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated in April 1975.

These dates recognize all who served on active duty, regardless of their location, whether in-country, in-theater, or stationed elsewhere, as well as their families.

The 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War will last through Veterans Day 2025.

Below: Fifty-three Vietnam veterans are honored at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland in Vineland, N.J., March 27, 2019.

Veterans Haven South in Winslow.

The next day, a ceremony was held for 13 veterans at Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner.

The observance culminated on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29, at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel. Hou was joined by Brig. Gen. Wayne M. McCaughey, director of Joint Staff, New Jersey Air National Guard (NJANG); Col. Patrick M. Kennedy, NJANG commander, and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Janeen M. Fillari. During the Memorial’s annual In Memory ceremony, 10 surviving spouses and family members were honored and more than 30 Vietnam veterans were recognized.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, nine million Americans served during the Vietnam War period. Approximately seven million are living today. Of that number, 124,427 New Jerseyans served during that



AMERICAN LEGION AWARDS AIRMAN

By Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Woolley
New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs Office

The American Legion presented Staff Sgt. Heather J. Hyon of the New Jersey Air National Guard's 108th Wing the 2018 American Legion Spirit of Service Award.

American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan along with retired Marine Corps Col. and Medal of Honor recipient Walter Joseph Marm Jr., and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Michael Bennett presented the award to Hyon during The American Legion's 100th National Convention in Minneapolis August 28, 2018.

The award has been presented annually since 2000 by the American Legion to one enlisted military member from each branch and reserve component who has made a difference in their community.

When not serving as a flight and operational medical technician with the 108th Medical Group, located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Hyon, volunteers at Covenant House, which is Philadelphia's only all-youth homeless shelter.

Her work for the shelter raised \$1,200, which is enough to ensure a week of meals for two homeless youth as well as additional medical care and educational services.

Hyon enlisted in the Air Force in 2011. She is a 2016 graduate of Rutgers University and holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and public health.



Above: Staff Sgt. Heather J. Hyon, second from right, 108th Medical Group, 108th Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, receives the 2018 American Legion Spirit of Service Award from American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan, right, at the American Legion's 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, August 28, 2018. (Photo courtesy Schelly Stone, The

American Legion) Left: Staff Sgt. Heather J. Hyon, left, with and Chuck Robbins, national executive committeeman for the American Legion Department of New Jersey, pose for a photo with her 2018 American Legion Spirit of Service Award at the convention. Robbins serves as the veterans outreach coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. (Courtesy photo)

D-DAY ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Story and photos by Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Public Affairs Office



Above: D-Day veterans and attendees render honors as the American Bombshells sing the National Anthem during the 75th Anniversary of D-Day ceremony at the New Jersey World War II Memorial, Trenton, N.J., June 6, 2019. Below: Walter Nall, left, Director, Veterans Services, holds the D-Day Anniversary proclamation as Gov. Philip D. Murphy, reads it.



On June 6, 1944, the United States, the United Kingdom, and their allies forever changed the course of World War II.

Through a series of amphibious landings along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, on the beaches of Normandy, codenamed Operation Neptune, part of Operation Overlord – the battle of Normandy, more than 160,000 soldiers and close to a 198,000 naval personnel began the liberation of western Europe from Nazi control.

Seventy-five years later, nearly two-dozen New Jersey D-Day veterans were honored during the State's 75th Anniversary of D-Day ceremony at the New Jersey World War II Memorial across from the State House in Trenton. The ceremony was hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

"Today we thank those in particular from New Jersey who carried out this noble fight," said Gov. Philip D. Murphy. "The foundation of our way of life and the future of free peoples across Europe and beyond rested with these American and allied soldiers."

According to the National World War II Museum, located in New Orleans, less than 1,000 American D-Day veterans are still alive.

Murphy also presented a proclamation stating that June 6, 2019, would be D-Day Remembrance Day in New Jersey.

"Without the courage of the greatest generation, the liberty and freedom that we had enjoyed could easily have been extinguished," said Murphy. "They sacrificed so that these ideals could remain paramount."

In addition, the American Bombshells sang a selection of World War II era music, as well as the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force service songs.

The invasion was a success; by June 30, more than 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies had landed on Normandy. The cost was high, more than 10,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded.



New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy thanks World War II veterans for their service after the 75th Anniversary of D-Day ceremony. The veterans are residents from the three Veteran Memorial Homes run by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.



VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED”

ATLANTIC/CAPE MAY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

ATLANTIC CITY ARMORY
1008 ABSECON BOULEVARD
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401-1999
(609) 441-3060 / 3061 / FAX: (609) 441-3899

BERGEN/PASSAIC VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

125 STATE STREET, SUITE 109,
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601-5435
(201) 996-8050 / 8051 / FAX: (201) 996-8009

BURLINGTON VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

555 HIGH STREET, SUITE 6A
MT HOLLY, NJ 08060
(609) 518-2273 / 2274 / FAX: (609) 518-2275

CAMDEN/GLOUCESTER VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

WOODBURY ARMORY
658 N EVERGREEN AVENUE
WOODBURY, NJ 08096
(856) 853-4184 / 4185 / 4186 / FAX: (856) 384-3772

ESSEX/UNION VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

20 WASHINGTON PLACE, ROOM 431
NEWARK, NJ 07102-3174
(973) 297-3336 FAX: (973) 642-0830

NJ★VET2VET 1-866-838-7654
(1-866-VETS-NJ4)

**Confidential Peer Support
For New Jersey Veterans**

1-866-838-7654

<http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vet2vet/>

@NJVet2Vet on Twitter, Pinterest & Facebook

Life doesn't have to be a battlefield

HUDSON VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

JERSEY CITY ARMORY
678 MONTGOMERY STREET, 2ND FLOOR
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306
(201) 536-3401 / FAX: (201) 536-3404

MERCER VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

LAWRENCEVILLE ARMORY
151 EGGERTS CROSSING ROAD, ROOM 136
LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648
(609) 671-6696 / 6697 / FAX: (609) 671-6698

MIDDLESEX/SOMERSET VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

SOMERSET ARMORY
1060 HAMILTON STREET
SOMERSET, NJ 08873
(732) 937-6347 / 6348 / FAX: (732) 937-6417

MONMOUTH VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

630 BANGS AVENUE, SUITE 320
ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712-6904
(732) 775-7005 / 7009 / FAX: (732) 775-3612

NEWARK LIAISON OFFICE

20 WASHINGTON PLACE, ROOM 439
NEWARK, NJ 07102-3174
(973) 297-3230 FAX: (973) 648-2356

OCEAN VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

JAMES J. HOWARD OUTPATIENT CLINIC
970 ROUTE 70
BRICK, NJ 08724-3550
(732) 840-3033 / 3034 / FAX: (732) 840-0399

SALEM/CUMBERLAND VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

524 NORTHWEST BOULEVARD,
VINELAND, NJ 08360-2895
(856) 405-4388 / 4389 / 4390 / FAX: (856) 696-6499

SUSSEX/MORRIS VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

DOVER ARMORY (MON, TUES, WED)
479 W CLINTON STREET
DOVER, NJ 07801
(973) 366-0245 / 8347 / FAX: (973) 366-0360

SUSSEX SCHEDULE

FRANKLIN ARMORY (THURSDAY/ALT FRIDAYS)
12 MUNSONHURST ROAD, FRANKLIN, 07416
(973) 827-4020 FAX: (973) 827-4024

SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER

179 SOUTH MAIN STREET (ROUTE 9)
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
(609) 978-5895 FAX: (609) 978-6446

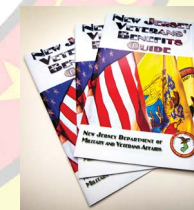
WARREN/HUNTERDON VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

200 SANATORIUM ROAD
GLEN GARDNER, NJ 08826
(908) 537-0831 / 0832 / FAX: (908) 537-0833

Flemington Schedule

(Wednesday)

4 Gauntt Place, Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 284-6146



**Be sure to pick up your
copy of the New Jersey
Veterans' Benefits Guide
at your Veterans Service
Office.**

For information on your Veteran entitlements, call toll-free 1-888-8NJ-VETS, or online at:

<https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>