



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



MARCH 1, 2012

Phantastic Time



WWII Navy Veteran Earl Barber, a resident at Vineland Veterans Memorial Home, gets up close and personal with the Phillie Phanatic at a special appearance at the Veterans home on Feb. 28. The Phillie Phanatic visited the residents of the Veterans home to get them primed for the upcoming baseball season. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)

HIGHLIGHTS



Tech. Sgt. Sean Latimer, an F-16C Fighting Falcon crew chief, performs maintenance on an aircraft, Feb. 14, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Latimer is assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and is deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht)



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Nieves works on an F-16 Aircraft at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 12. Nieves is an aircraft electrician with the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Unit and is deployed from the 177th Fighter Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ericka Engblom)



The officers of the New Jersey National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion recently completed their bi-annual team building event at Terrapin Adventures in Savage, Md. Standing from left to right, Maj. Jonathan Lapidow, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rob Barea, 1st Lt. Lilliam Bernal, Warrant Officer 1 Nicholas Benedetti, Capts. Justin Oliver, Nicholas Calenicoff and Monica Marin-Delacruz. Kneeling left to right are Capt. Courtney Bethea, 1st Lt. Ana Bolanos, Lt. Col. Jemal Beale, Maj. Fred Walz and Capt. Vincent Tirri. The event was a success and the unit continues to exceed its recruiting goals. (Courtesy photo)



Army Col. Todd F. Berger from the New Jersey National Guard Inspector General's office is presented with a congratulatory plaque for his promotion to the rank of colonel by Maj. D.P. McNulty from the New Jersey State Police on Feb. 28. Berger was promoted on Jan. 6. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)



Military and Spouse Job Fair

Family Assistance Center
(Formerly Bordentown Armory)
1048 US Highway 206
Bordentown, NJ
March 9th, 2012
9 a.m. till 1 p.m.



Employment Opportunities

- Bring Resume
- Approx 40 Employers
- Presentations Include:
 - Dress for Success
 - Networking
 - Turning Your Military Skills into Civilian Employment
 - Web Resources
 - Budgeting (from Merrill Lynch)

Resources Available

- DEERS/ID Cards (2 forms of ID Required)
- Family Support
- Finance Representative
- MFLC (Military Family Life Consultant)
- VA Loans Representative
- Military One Source
- G.I. Bill Presentation
- Various College Representative On-site

Employers Please Email: Tammy.L.Cartagena@us.army.mil
to register for this event. This is a “No-Cost” event
However, there are only 40 tables available

American Legion to host Hiring Our Heroes event

The American Legion has joined forces with the U.S. and N.J. Chambers of Commerce in support of the Hiring Our Heroes program, a nationwide effort, blossoming here in New Jersey, to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment.

Veterans and their spouses are encouraged to take advantage of the Hiring Our Heroes event scheduled on Friday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at American Legion T. Nulty Post 471, 25 Brown Avenue in Iselin.

With the U.S. auto industry looking to add some 30,000 jobs during 2012, many of New Jersey’s 530 auto dealerships and other non-dealer service centers will be looking to fill positions.

Since the launch of the Hiring Our Heroes program on March 2011, more than 7,300 veterans and military spouses, and 60 wounded warriors have found employment.

Please go to www.HoH.GreatJob.net to register as a veteran job seeker, or auto-industry related employer.



Vietnam veteran artist featured at Museum

On Saturday, March 10, at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will host a lecture highlighting the Vietnam Era artwork of late New Jersey veteran Joe Connor.

Connor's wife, Anne, will speak about her husband's artistic legacy including the sketches and poetry he created while serving in Vietnam.

The Museum is currently showcasing Connor's work in its featured exhibit, *The Art of Survival*. The exhibit features thirty-six of the two-hundred sketches he created during his tour in Vietnam. Connor's images highlight soldiers' experiences, battle scenes, and the Vietnamese landscape. The exhibit is on display through March 10, 2012.

The Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116. The Educational Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. Regular adult admission is \$5; student and senior citizen admission is \$3 and children under 10 are admitted free. Regular admission applies to all lectures.

Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP to 732-335-0033.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation (www.njvvmf.org) is a non-profit organization, which strives to foster patriotism and recognition of the sacrifices, courage and valor of the New Jersey veterans of the Vietnam Era. Dedicated in 1995, the Memorial is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

West Point Concert Band at NJPAC

Come out and enjoy a night of ballet and music on March 17 at 7 p.m., at the New Jersey Performance Arts Center in Newark.

The New Jersey Ballet will perform with The West Point Concert Band and will provide special discount tickets for military families.

Use code NJBWPB2012 to purchase Grand Tier Boxes and First Tier Rows A-D for only \$25 or Second Tier Rows A-C for \$20.

There is no limit on tickets per order. Purchase tickets at www.njpac.org or via phone at 1-888-466-5722.

NJPAC is located at One Center Street in Newark.

American Legion Post 43 hosts "Evening of Solid Gold"

The American Legion, Frank Patterson Post 43 will host an "Evening of Solid Gold" performances to raise awareness and funds for wounded and homeless American veterans.

The show will take place at Madison Junior School on Saturday, May 19, at 7 p.m. The event will consist of acts from the 50's and 60's.

A clothing drive for veterans-in-need will also be conducted at the event. Madison Junior School is located at 160 Main Street in Madison, N.J.

GRILL SERGEANT COOK-OFF BATTLE

Join us as members of the
New Jersey Army National Guard
go toe-to-toe in a culinary battle royal!

Proceeds from the show will benefit the
SGT. Sam Nutter Organization,
whose purpose is to raise funds for
NJ Army National Guard families in need.

Seating is limited! Reserve your spot by
contacting Staff Sergeant Dennis Shanahan
at 862-222-6142

Date: March 14, 2012 from 6:30pm-8:30pm
Bloomingdale's
400 Hackensack Avenue
Hackensack, NJ 07601

www.nutterrun.org

BATTLEFIELD RUNWAY FASHION SHOW

Join us for a special fashion show
featuring members of the
New Jersey Army National Guard!

Proceeds from the show will benefit the
SGT. Sam Nutter Organization,
whose purpose is to raise funds for
NJ Army National Guard families in need.

Seating is limited! Reserve your seat by
contacting Staff Sergeant Dennis Shanahan
at 862-222-6142

Date: March 10, 2012 from 6pm-8pm
Bloomingdale's - Willowbrook Mall
3 Willowbrook Blvd.
Wayne, NJ 07470

www.nutterrun.org



Veterans Outreach & Medal Ceremony
March 6-8
Bridgewater Commons Mall
400 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ

Medal Ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on March 6 in Mall's Center Court
Veterans Information on Entitlements
Kiosk hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT
OF
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS**

VETERANS OUTREACH EVENT
SATURDAY, MARCH 12 AT 6 P.M.
AT
LOUIS BROWN ATHLETIC CENTER
DURING RUTGERS MEN'S GAME VS. ST. JOHNS

**NJDMAVA WILL HAVE AN OUTREACH TABLE
WITH VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS PRESENT
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
AND ASSIST ALL VETERANS**

Louis Brown Athletic Center, 83 Rockefeller Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Gold Star Mothers to be honored at St Patrick's Day Parade

A special presentation ceremony for Gold Star Mothers will be held at the Ocean County's St Patrick's Day Parade in Seaside Heights on March 10, at 12 p.m.

The Parade will present a special ceremony to honor the Gold Star Mothers, families, and their lost heroes at the end of the Parade route with numerous groups of bagpipers and musicians.

In addition, Judi Tapper, president of the New Jersey Gold Star Mothers, and T.J. Fearon will present approximately 20 Honor and Remember Special Flags to current New Jersey Gold Star Mothers. To find information, history and the meaning of this Flag, please visit <http://honorandremember.org>.



POST - 9/11 GI BILL
A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. e-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
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Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist