



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

April 25, 2013

## WWII Sailor receives Department of Defense Award for Patriotism

Full story on page 2



Seaman 1st Class Al Perdeck, center, who served during World War II on the USS Bunker Hill, is awarded the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's Seven Seals Award by retired Col. Alan Smith, left, NJ ESGR committee chairman, April 14, 2013. Perdeck is joined by his granddaughter, Whitney Ullman, right. (Photo by Donna Clementoni)

## Perdeck honors shipmates legacy through education of V-J Day

Story by Donna Clementoni, employer outreach director NJESGR

Ocean County resident, Albert Perdeck was recognized April 14, by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) with a "Seven Seals Award" for his patriotic campaign to educate young Americans to respect and understand the significance of the American flag.

In addition, Perdeck has maintained a one man quest to ensure August 14, also known as V-J Day, is commemorated and recognized by the United States citizens.

The award, depicting the heraldry seals of the seven military services, is given at the discretion of the NJESGR chairman to recognize the efforts by a citizen, business, or organization, whose supportive actions have benefited all of the Guard/Reserve Components and the U.S. Armed Forces in a significant manner.

NJESGR committee chairman Col. Alan Smith, a retired Marine, presented the award to the WWII Seaman 1st Class at a breakfast hosted by the Ted Katzenstein Memorial Post 657 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America at their Leisure Village West clubhouse location.

Representing the Department of Defense, Smith declared, "We honor Al Perdeck today, for his continued service to his country in the classrooms of America, telling the story of American history, and an appreciation for the flag so many have served under, and especially as a Sailor on the USS Bunker Hill in May of 1945."



him from being counted among the 346 sailors that were killed, 43 listed as missing, and 264 wounded.

He tried to command a panicked young Sailor. "Put on your helmet first," Perdeck said to the young Sailor. "You need your brains to think. Put on your pants second."

Scars are sometimes not visible to the eye. Sixty eight years later, Perdeck admits, "I am living with a horror... I saw too much."

The sailor is proud of the service of the ship that earned eleven battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation, but he can recall with clarity the sights, sounds and smells of that horrifying morning attack.

The image of the mutilated bodies, the cries of the wounded, the panic of the sailor who couldn't get his oxygen canister to activate, haunts him to this day. Peaceful

legions of proud and faithful members of the Armed Forces that are trying to come to terms with the mental and physical injuries of military service.

While he still wrestles with the wounds of war, Perdeck spends his days focused on an important mission - to honor his crewmembers from the USS Bunker Hill that he vows to 'not allow to be forgotten.' The retired postal worker speaks in schools about respecting the flag and understanding the symbolism of the 'Red, White and Blue.'

Coupled with that cause, Perdeck is adamant that August 14, V-J Day, is never forgotten.

"What really bothers me," says Perdeck, is that "there is no public outcry. No one makes a thing about it."

He personally pens letters to legis-

**“Al, your meritorious service and dedication to duty, to your shipmates, and Nation, endures as an American legacy to all who cherish freedom.”**

**Retired Col. Alan Smith,  
NJESGR committee chairman**

As a young seaman, the Newark-born and raised Perdeck was serving aboard the USS Bunker Hill when it was struck by two kamikaze pilots - she was the most heavily damaged carrier to survive the war - during the morning hours of May 11, 1945. In the minutes prior to the A6M Zero fighter plane's 550 lb. bomb penetrating the flight deck, the exhausted sailor had just rested his head on the catwalk after his all night shift loading the vessel with food and ammunition from the supply ship.

Perdeck's survival instincts kicked in. A combination of luck and training saved

sleep is still elusive, decades later.

The one constant in his life has been his wife Elaine.

"Never once," Perdeck lovingly says, "has she ever said she was tired of hearing the stories."

Elaine Perdeck was relieved when, after suffering silently with his demons for years, Albert Perdeck finally agreed to seek professional help.

"I can't live with what's in my head," he conceded.

Perdeck, officially diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder in 1997, joins the

latures demanding that they take notice. While the response is underwhelming, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, did hear about his patriotism.

It's never too late to honor a hero.

Smith summed it up nicely when he respectfully stated, "Al, your meritorious service and dedication to duty, to your shipmates, and Nation, endures as an American legacy to all who cherish freedom. For all Americans who have worn the military uniform of the United States, and for all Americans, we honor you today."

# HIGHLIGHTS



New Jersey National Guard Soldiers from the 508th Quick Reaction Force Mentor team pauses to take a picture overlooking Kabul City, Afghanistan. Standing left to right, 1st Sgt. Joseph Prieto, Sgt. Kath-

ryn Abrams, Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Mankowski, Staff Sgt. Christophe Richardson, Cpt. Kevin Ryan, and Staff Sgt. James Harrison. Kneeling are Spc. Xaviel Pimentel and Sgt. Vincent Rodriguez. (Courtesy photo)

## Somerset Armory Indoor & Outdoor Flea Market & Yard Sale

Sponsored by: 42<sup>nd</sup> RSG Cup & Flower Fund / Family Readiness Group  
Insurance Policy # SRPG-0312 via ACORD

On Armed Forces Day

**Saturday, May 18, 2013**

**7 AM to 3:45 PM**

**Somerset Armory**

**1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset NJ**



**VENDORS WANTED**

**Call: (732) 807-5269**

**[NJTank12@gmail.com](mailto:NJTank12@gmail.com)**

**Tables: \$30 indoors \$25.00 outdoors**



The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey Foundation

### Sandy Relief Reception

Support Our Mission of Preserving Garden State Military History

**12:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.**

**Sunday, May 19, 2013**

**B.P.O.E. Lodge 2534**

**17 Stockton Lake Boulevard, Manasquan**

\$20 donation requested, \$150 per table of 10.

Live Entertainment.

Hot & Cold Appetizers Served. Cash Bar Available.

All proceeds will be used for the museum's ongoing recovery efforts.

Questions? Please call (732) 614-6103

The National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation Announces Remembrance Day Ceremony

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will hold its annual New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony Tuesday, May 7 at 11 a.m.

May 7th was created by legislation in 1991 as a unique day in New Jersey to honor all those who served in the military during the Vietnam Era from 1959 to 1975. More than 200,000 New Jersey residents served in the armed forces during that time.

The guest speaker is Brig. Gen. James J. Grant who serves as the Director, Joint Staff – Joint Force Headquarters, New Jersey National Guard. As Director, Grant oversees the training, operations and logistics support for the more than 8,300 members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, as well directing the day-to-day operations of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He has responsibility for: Family Support, Fiscal Division, Installations, New Jersey National Guard Training Center located at Sea Girt, Office of Military Affairs, and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Grant received his commission as a second lieutenant through the Officer Candidate School in 1982. Prior to receiving his commission, Grant served as an enlisted member in the United States Marine Corps serving from 1973 until 1975.

In addition, during this year's ceremony, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be awarding a number of New Jersey state medals. These include the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and Vietnam Service Medal. (A list of medal recipients is available. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving the list.)

Admission is free for all visitors on May 7, and the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Museum is located adjacent to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel. The Memorial is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Museum & Educational Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information on the Memorial or Educational Center, call 732-335-0033 or visit [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation 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. Built in 1988, the Memorial is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is adjacent to the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center in Holmdel, N.J.

## MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT



**APR 26 7:00pm**

(All Access Pre-show starts at 6 PM-FREE with ticket)

**SAVE \$10!**

**On \$25 Seats**

**Children 2-12 ONLY \$12**

(Excludes Gold Circle and VIP seats)

### 3 Ways To Buy Tickets:

- At Tobyhanna Army Depot ONE STOP SHOP
- At Box Office w/ Valid Military ID (active, reserve forces, retired)
- Online using code "USA6" at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com)

(\$50 Township Tax Will Be Added. Additional Fees and Service Charges May Apply)

**APRIL 25-28**

Thu @ 7 PM; Fri @ 7 PM  
Sat @ 1PM & 5 PM; Sun @ 1 PM  
Seats \$80, \$40, \$25



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# HIGHLIGHTS



## 2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - NJ BUILDING TRADES HELMETS TO HARDHATS

Bordentown National Guard Armory  
1048 Route 206 South, Bordentown, NJ 08505  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2013

**HIRING FAIR: 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

This Hiring Our Heroes event is sponsored by the New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council/Helmets to Hardhats and NJ Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. It is conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the Department of Labor Veterans Employment & Training Service (DOL VETS); The American Legion; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News; NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; NJ State Parole Board; NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and other local partners.

### EMPLOYERS

Register for FREE at [www.hiringourheroes.org](http://www.hiringourheroes.org)

### JOB SEEKERS

Veterans, Active Duty Military, Members Of Guard And Reserve Components, Military Spouses  
Register for FREE at [HOH.GreatJob.net](http://HOH.GreatJob.net)  
WALK-INS WELCOME

Registration questions? Email [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202-463-5807.

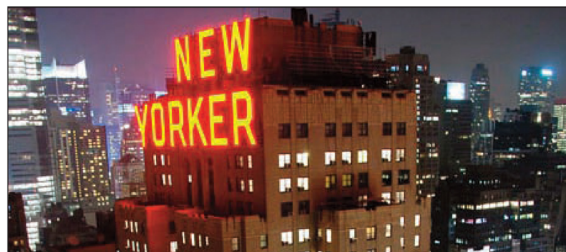
**www.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG**

is the official online partner for Hiring Our Heroes | Find Hiring Our Heroes online: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [+](#)

# RECRUIT MILITARY® Job Fair for Veterans

THIS FREE HIRING EVENT IS FOR:

- ♦ men and women who are transitioning to civilian life
- ♦ veterans who already have civilian work experience
- ♦ members of the National Guard and reserve forces
- ♦ military spouses, other members of military families



## May 23, 2013

FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 3:00 P.M.

### New Yorker Hotel

481 EIGHTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY



- ♦ Job Opportunities - Companies are hiring!
- ♦ Continuing-Education Opportunities
- ♦ Business-Ownership Opportunities



Produced by RecruitMilitary in cooperation with The American Legion  
For details and directions, visit <https://events.recruitmilitary.com>

## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

# Serving Those Who Served

Division of Veterans Healthcare Services  
Division of Veterans Services

**Remember**

**Honor**

**Comfort**

## NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Outreach Campaign

### NJ VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

NJ VIETNAM VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY  
May \*7

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m.

DMAVA will have an Outreach Table w/VSO present  
PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Pkwy Exit 116, Holmdel  
(Monmouth County)

### CHERRY HILL MALL

June \*4, 5 & 6

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, June 4  
Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8p.m.  
200 Route 38, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002  
(Camden County)

# HIGHLIGHTS

**WE SALUTE YOU....**  
**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN EXCLUSIVE CELEBRATION HONORING THE SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

**US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN CELEBRATES ARMED FORCES DAY SATURDAY MAY 18TH, 2013 10:00AM-3:00PM**  
**BORDENTOWN ARMORY JOINT MILITARY & FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER 1048 US HIGHWAY 206 BORDENTOWN, NJ 08505**

**COMPLIMENTARY FOOD**  
**MUSIC BY 94.5 PST**  
**ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY "THE USO LIBERTY BELLS"**  
**KIDDIE RIDES GAMES, RAFFLES... AND A WHOLE LOT MORE**  
**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**  
**RSVP: 1(800) 241-4848 OPTION#3**

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## REGISTER AS A BONE MARROW DONOR

**If You Could Save a Life, Would You?**  
**Saturday, April 27, 2013**  
**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**  
**Jackson Liberty High School**

To Myra, his wife of 34 years, David is the love of her life.  
 To his son, Brian, and daughter-in-law, Maureen, he is a constant inspiration and source of strength and love.  
 To his two grandchildren, Patrick and Sarah, he is the best "Pop-Pop" anyone could wish for; attending (and cheering loudly) at everyone of Patrick's basketball and soccer games and holding Sarah's hand every step of the way in her life-long struggle with Rett Syndrome.  
 To his coworkers in the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs David is an endless advocate for the rights and needs of our veterans.

David's life as a loving parent, adoring grandparent, devoted husband, and dedicated public servant came to a complete standstill this year; he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) and now needs a bone marrow transplant to survive. Currently there are no matching donors on the national registry, which is why the community of Jackson is holding a donor drive in David's honor. David is the type of man to give help, not ask for it, so his friends, family, and the countless people whose lives he's changed are asking: **Would you help to save his life?**

[deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org) Delete Blood Cancer DKMS | 33 East 33rd Street | Suite 501 | New York, NY 10016  
 P: 212.209.6700 | F: 212.209.6710 | [info@dkmsamericas.org](mailto:info@dkmsamericas.org)

# PATRIOT CONNECTIONS

**Veteran, Military, Law Enforcement and Patriot Related EVENTS**  
**and NEWS in NJ, PA and surrounding areas...**



**SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS ONLINE AT;**  
**WWW.PATRIOTCONNECTIONS.ORG**

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