



# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 7, 2013

## Black History Month

# NEW JERSEY GUARDSMAN: AGENT OF CHANGE

By retired Col. Roger Pharo and retired Tech. Sgt. John Carothers; illustration by Chief Master Sgt. Donald Taggart

Although just 29 years old when he died in an aircraft mishap, 1st Lt. Thomas E. Williams had secured a place in history by helping usher in the civil rights movement.

Following his graduation from West Philadelphia High School in 1942, Williams enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and entered into the Army Air Force Pilot Training Program at the Tuskegee Army Airfield, Ala.

Following his separation from active duty in August 1946, he served in the Air Force Reserves while pursuing higher education.

During the Korean War, Williams returned to active duty and volunteered for combat duty. While serving he attended Basic Instructor's School at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Ala.

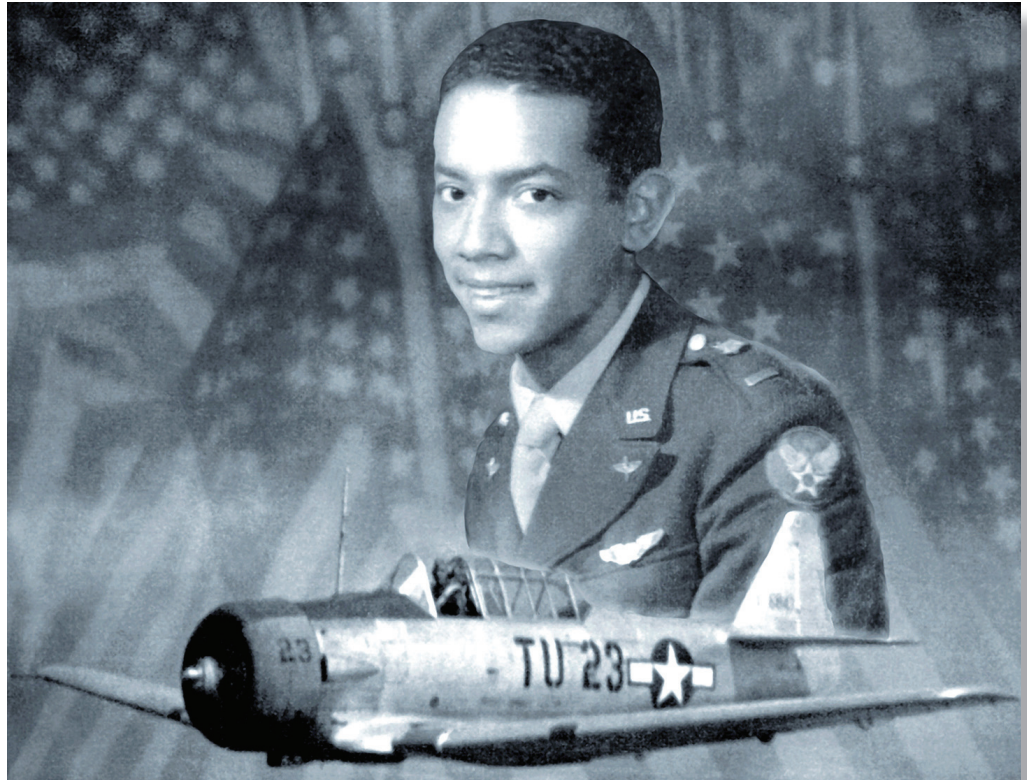
On June 23, 1953, while commuting in full service dress from Eglin Field, Fla., back to Selma, Williams politely declined to yield his seat -- third from the back of the bus

-- and move to the extreme rear of the bus. This action resulted in his being charged under the Jim Crow laws. In a Crestview, Fla., courtroom, Williams challenged this charge as violation of his Constitutional rights. The Florida judge decided that his court could not hear such a challenge and referred the matter to a higher court, releasing Williams pending the new trial.

Williams met with the NAACP's special counsel, Thurgood Marshall. Marshall requested that the Air Force allow Williams to return to active duty, but Williams declined and instead opted to join the New Jersey Air National Guard on May 7, 1954.

His entry into the NJANG was paved in February 1948, by Governor Alfred Driscoll, who ignored federal policy mandating segregation and ordered the full integration of the New Jersey National Guard months before President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981.

On May 7, 1954, Williams was assigned to the 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 108th Fighter-Bomber Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base. That day Williams not only became the first African-American to serve in the New Jersey



Air National Guard but in the entire Air National Guard as well.

On May 13, the Eighty-Third Congress convened hearings before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. First Lieutenant Thomas E. Williams was the first witness called. His testimony was instrumental in the passage of a bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act prohibiting the segregation of passengers in interstate commerce on the basis of color or race.

Eighteen months later, on Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks also refused to move to the back of the bus.

During a routine training mission on Jan. 15, 1955, Williams' F-86A Sabre aircraft entered into an unrecoverable spin. During the ejection sequence, the jettisoned canopy struck Williams' helmet, fatally injuring him.

Maj. Arthur E. Martone, Commander, 141st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, wrote to Williams' sister, Mrs. Hilda Picou, "Thomas has been with us just a short time and during the period he lived up to the standards and traditions of the Air Force and New Jersey Air National Guard."

## Country singer shows support for military members

Story and photo by Donna Clementoni, New Jersey ESGR

At an appearance at a Jersey Man Magazine Networking business event at a restaurant in Cherry Hill, country singer Doreen Taylor took the time to sign a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve.

During the event, the singing star took some time to take a photograph with two New Jersey National Guard members present at the event: combat medic Tiffany DiSanzo and military police officer Nick DiRenzo. DiSanzo was mobilized during the statewide emergency created by Hurricane Sandy and DiRenzo has completed two tours of duty in Iraq.

When Doreen isn't writing music, recording or performing, she is a big believer of "paying it forward." She is also a "good ol' American girl" and supports many organizations that assist our military troops and their families. One of her latest projects was her book and CD "Coming Home" where she donated the profits to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF) and even hosted a gala in their honor.

A Department of Defense, mostly volunteer agency, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR) seeks to create a culture where all American employers value and support the military service of their employees.

For more information on pledging your support of the National Guard and Reserve contact Donna Clementoni, director of Employer Outreach for New Jersey ESGR at 410-812-6677 or via email at [poet4pop@aol.com](mailto:poet4pop@aol.com), or visit their website at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org).



The singing star, Doreen Taylor, center, is photographed with Jersey Man Magazine publisher Ken Dunek, left, Tiffany DiSanzo, second from right, and Nick DiRenzo, right, at the networking event.



### THE NATIONAL GUARD STATE FAMILY READINESS COUNCIL

New Jersey National Guard members and their families are facing financial hardships as a result of being deployed overseas. The National Guard State Family Readiness Council assesses the needs of these Soldiers, Airmen and their families and finds solutions on a state level and provides funds through our grant program. For more information visit [www.nationalguardfrc.org](http://www.nationalguardfrc.org).

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
**Serving Those Who Served**  
Division of Veterans Healthcare Services  
Division of Veterans Services

**Comfort**

**Remember**

**Honor**

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

#### WOODBIDGE CENTER MALL

February \*19, 20 & 21

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19  
Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

250 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
(Middlesex County)

#### MONMOUTH MALL

March \*19, 20 & 21

\* Medal Ceremony at 11:00a.m. on Tuesday, March 19  
Kiosk hours 10 a.m. – 8p.m.

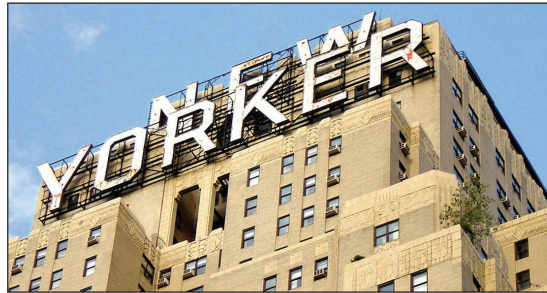
180 Route 35 South, Eatontown, NJ 07724  
(Monmouth County)

## 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



Thursday, February 21 ♦ from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

### New Yorker Hotel 481 EIGHTH AVENUE New York City



- 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>



### 2013 Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair – Somerville, NJ

Stevenson - D'Alessio American Legion Post #12

232 Union Avenue - Somerville, NJ

February 21, 2013

HIRING FAIR: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

MILITARY TRANSITION WORKSHOP: 8:30 A.M.

This American Legion- and ESGR-sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS); New Jersey Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR); the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; NBC News; NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the NJ State Parole Board; NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development; and other local partners.

#### EMPLOYERS

Must have available jobs.  
Register for FREE at [HOH.Greatjob.net](http://HOH.Greatjob.net)

#### 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) to guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.

A workshop for veterans and military that focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing will start at 8:30 A.M.

For registration questions, please contact [hiringourheroes@uschamber.com](mailto:hiringourheroes@uschamber.com) or call 202463-5807.



[WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG](http://WWW.HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG)

monster | [Military.com](http://Military.com) is the official online partner for Hiring Our Heroes | Find Hiring Our Heroes online: [f](https://www.facebook.com/hiringourheroes) [t](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hiringourheroes) [i](https://www.instagram.com/hiringourheroes) [y](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

### New Year, New Schedule?

It's time to **find the right caregiver** to fill in the gaps!

New school activities? Different work schedule?  
Recent PCS? Use your Sittercity membership to find local sitters & nannies that fit your family's needs this year.



Activate today at: [sittercity.com/DoD](http://sittercity.com/DoD)



Find caregivers for:

- Before/After school
- Last minute needs
- PCS helping hand
- Infant care
- School closings
- Pet sitting
- Senior care

ARMY  
MARINES  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE

including active duty,  
Reserve & Guard families.

Your membership to Sittercity is fully paid by the Department of Defense and is at no cost to you!

### swissport cargo services



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER

Swissport Cargo Services will be hiring qualified applicants to work at Newark Liberty Airport. Salaries will range from **\$12-18 per hour**  
**Full-time hours & Full Benefits**

#### Several Positions Available:

- Cargo Lead Agents
- Cargo Office Agent
- Supervisor
- Cargo Warehouse Agent
- Office Lead Agent

Candidates must be prescreened by Newark One-Stop Placement Staff, before employment consideration by the employer.  
Prescreening daily Monday – Friday, starting Monday 2/4/13 at 9am, 10:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 2:30 pm. for interviews with Swissport Inc.

**Newark One-Stop Career Center**  
990 Broad Street  
Newark NJ 07102

To prequalify for this position:  
Must be an US citizen  
Must be 18 years old with High School diploma  
Must have a valid NJ driver's license  
Must have 10 years of work history  
Must pass a background check

## Legislative and Voice of Democracy awards dinner

The Department of New Jersey held its annual Legislative and Voice of Democracy Awards Dinner Jan. 26, at Mount Laurel, N.J.

The annual awards dinner honors the Veterans of Foreign Wars' legislator of the year. This year's recipient was Sen. Christopher J. Conners of the 9th legislative district. The senator has sponsored various pieces of legislation that broadens veteran's eligibility for veteran's benefits.

Also honored at this dinner were 21 high school students, grades 9 – 12, who represented all 21 counties in New Jersey. The 21 county-winners were selected from all the entries of their counties. The high school students each year are given a topic to complete a three to five minute oral presentation. This year's topic was "Is Our Constitution Still Viable?" New Jersey is proud to have had 2035 students participate from across the state, thus representing 119 Posts and 51 Auxiliaries.

Out of these, 130 local winners advanced to the state finals by winning their county contest. All in all, more than \$93,000 in total awards was given out by the VFW in New Jersey.

Three awards were presented at the dinner. The third place winner was Lucille Finnegan sponsored by the VFW Post 6701 in Washington, N.J. She received a \$3,000 scholarship.

The second place winner was Kristen Borowski, who was sponsored by the VFW Post 8885 in Toms River, Ocean County. She received a \$4,000 scholarship. The first place winner was Kira Mathias Prabhu, who was sponsored by the VFW Post at Berkeley Heights in Union County. She received a \$5,000 scholarship. Prabhu will also be invited to attend the National Voice of Democracy event in Washington, D.C., in March. At this event, state winners from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific will be given a tour of the city.

In the evening the students will compete for more than \$152,000 in scholarships. The top winner will receive a \$30,000 scholarship. The Voice of Democracy is a sponsored program of the VFW's national organization and is available to all qualifying students in grades 9 – 12. For more information on this program, please see any VFW Post in your local area.



## HALL COINED BY ISAF COMMANDER

*Pfc. Shane Patrick Hall, left, 508th Military Police Company, was coined by Gen. John R. Allen, commander, International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Feb. 4, 2012. Other 508th Soldiers assigned to the New Kabul Compound got coined by Allen for their execution of more than 200 mounted and dismounted missions while providing base force protection for more than 1,000 tenants at New Kabul Compound. In addition, they also conduct joint dismounted patrols to ensure security of key terrain vulnerabilities while simultaneously building relationships with Afghanistan National Police Districts 9 and 10. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Kap Kim/Released)*

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Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
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