



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

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November 15, 2013

“Celebrating Our Veterans” Recognized by NJ ESGR



Celebrating our Veterans founder Derick Glenn, center back row, receives the Department of Defense ‘Seven Seals Award’ from Donna Clementoni. They were photographed with five World War II veterans who were invited for a ride on a World War II era B-17 bomber that left

from Millville Municipal Airport. The five had all served on the historic plane during their World War II service. Pictured from left to right, Dr. Leonard Streitfeld, Frank Wagner, Charles ‘Sandy’ Wentzell, Jim Owens and Charles Sikora Jr. (Courtesy photo)

Celebrating our Veterans was recently honored by the New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Derick Glenn, a 1990 Millville High School graduate and founder of the charitable organization that is committed to helping disadvantaged and homeless veterans and their families, accepted the ‘Seven Seals Award’ on behalf of Celebrating our Veterans from Donna Clementoni, NJESGR Director of Employer Outreach

ESGR is a Department of Defense, mostly volunteer organization that seeks to create a culture where all American employers value the military service and sacrifice of their employers.

“Sometimes we get to expand our main mission (of enlisting employer support and awareness for Citizen Soldiers) and have the privilege to honor organizations, such as Celebrating our Veterans for the role that they play toward our Nation’s total defense and in support of our veterans” said Clementoni.

“For answering the call of those who need help – I applaud you!”

Celebrating our Veterans raises awareness of the accomplishments and needs of local veterans and their families and has suc-

cessfully garnered community involvement to support their operation. Their outreach program assists veterans in finding resources including food, clothing, temporary and permanent housing and medical treatment. This non-profit, volunteer based organization is a strong advocate of giving to those who gave for us.

As part of their undertaking, Celebrating Our Veterans, Inc. conducts searches for homeless veterans. Their team of dedicated volunteers travels to places where homeless veterans are living to begin the process that gets them off the streets and into a stable environment. These outreach visits are a critical means to meet the hard to reach veterans. Since July 2011, Celebrating our Veterans has identified and assisted more than 100 veterans.

In addition to advocating for this vulnerable population, Glenn continues to be the voice for veterans of all conflicts and branches of service through his weekly radio show that can be heard Saturdays at noon on 92.1 WVLT.

The committed volunteers of Celebrating Our Veterans exemplify ESGR’s motto, “We All Serve.”

HIGHLIGHTS

ESGR NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

ARLINGTON, Va. – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen and Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil by Jan. 20, 2014.

Guard and Reserve members comprise nearly one-half of the nation's military force, providing essential services to national security and humanitarian efforts at home and abroad. Supportive employers, with their enduring commitment, have helped keep our military strong and our Nation secure.

"Across the Nation, employers have shown noteworthy support to their service member employees and families," said Paul Mock, ESGR National Chair. "Whether on routine duty, responding to natural disasters or serving in a deployed location, employers who encourage military service make it easier to serve. By submitting a Freedom Award nomination, a member of the National Guard or Reserve can acknowledge and thank their employer for the critical role they play in our Nation's defense."

Each year, up to 15 deserving employers are selected as Freedom Award recipients and honored in Washington, D.C. Examples of past recipient support include continued benefits and healthcare for deployed service members, home maintenance and childcare support and veteran hiring initiatives. Service members who have received exemplary employer support should submit their nominations for the Freedom Award today.

About ESGR and the Freedom Award:

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office established in 1972, develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases



awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce. On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, ESGR runs the annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award program. Created in 1996, the Freedom Award has been presented to 190 employers.

For questions or information on the Freedom Award, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at OSD.ESGR-PA@mail.mil.



Social Work Programs Focus on Military Families

The stress of being in combat and away from loved ones can put veterans and their families at risk for mental health problems ranging from anxiety and depression to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Consequently, there has become a growing need for social workers to understand the unique circumstances faced by veterans and their families. Therefore, in order to address this need, social work programs at colleges and universities across the nation are adding a focus on military families. In addition, there has been a steady flow of veterans or active duty military getting their baccalaureate's or master's degrees in social works.

The Clinical Practice with Families and Children Program at Monmouth University at West Long Branch, N.J., offers a sequence in military families in which social work students can take

electives such as Military Families and Suicide Prevention. These students can then complete their internship in a military-related agency or organization if they are interested in focusing their clinical practice on working with military families and veterans.

If you are interested in speaking with Dr. Robin Mama, Ph.D., Dean of the Monmouth University School of Social Work or a veteran who is working in the community as a social worker please let us know and we would be happy to coordinate an interview. We can be reached at 732-263-5507.

Other schools of social work with military and veteran resources with a focus on veterans and military families can be found on the National Association of Social Workers: <http://www.socialworkers.org/practice/military/schoolsocialwork.asp>

HIGHLIGHTS

BE A PET'S HERO



PETS FOR VETS **A COMPANION ANIMAL ADOPTION SERVICE FOR VETERANS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES**

Who We Serve

Veterans of all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

Who We Save

Stray and abandoned animals at risk of being killed in crowded shelters, giving them the loving homes they deserve.

What We Provide

Cats and dogs adopted through Pets for Vets are vaccinated, spayed/neutered, microchipped, and have passed medical and behavioral evaluations. All at no cost to the veteran.

Transforming the lives of both animals and people, Pets for Vets connects at-risk shelter animals with veterans of the U.S. Military.

The Pets for Vets program pairs shelter animals with retired veterans free of charge. Acting as a “combat buddy” for life, a companion dog or cat has been proven in clinical studies to reduce stress and help veterans acclimate back into civilian life, especially those suffering from PTSD and Traumatic Brain Disorders as well as psychological issues from life in combat. The Pets for Vets program gives veterans a new friend who will love them unconditionally, and gives the shelter animals the second chance at life in a loving home.

For more information or to adopt, contact Dana at: dana@phillypaws.org / 877-254-1982 ext 3



PAWS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to saving Philadelphia's homeless, abandoned, and unwanted animals. PAWS is the city's largest no-kill shelter and operates a high-volume, low-cost clinic serving pet owners and rescue organizations that lack access to affordable basic veterinary care. Through its adoption locations, special events, and foster care network, PAWS finds loving homes for thousands of animals each year. PAWS is working to make Philadelphia a place where every healthy and treatable pet is guaranteed a home. www.PhillyPaws.org

PAWS is a member of the Pets for Patriots national network.

FROM ENLISTED TO

Story and illustration by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Donald J. Strait was born on April 28, 1918 in East Orange, N.J., and grew up in the nearby town of Verona.

As a child, he dreamed of being a pilot and built model airplanes.

“I used to spend the weekends... up at the airport talking to crew chiefs, talking to pilots... just watching airplanes fly because I was extremely interested in aviation,” said Strait. “It was a pretty extensive bike ride and my mother used to pack me a brown-bag lunch, and I would spend the whole day there watching these airplanes maneuver and be tested.”

These experiences laid the foundation of a career in aviation, when, in 1940, frustrated with his job working for Prudential Insurance, he enlisted in the 119th Observation Squadron, which was located at Newark Airport.

“In January of ‘41 they sent me to aircraft armament school out at Lowry Field in Denver, Co. ... for about four months, where I was training as an aircraft armorer.”

Strait worked his way from armorer to aerial gunner in the backseat of an O-47 observation aircraft. During that time, the pilots he was flying with convinced him to sign up for pilot training. After qualifying as an aviation cadet, Strait was sent to flight school at Maxwell Field, Ala., where he graduated and received his commission in January 1943.

“Fortunately I was one of the 30 that went to fighters,” said Strait. “I don’t know what I would have done if they had have called me out for B-17s. I don’t think I could have handled it because I wanted to be a fighter pilot so badly and I had done very well in flight school.”

After training on a P-47 Thunderbolt at Westover Field in Chicopee, Mass., Strait and his fellow Airmen were made a part of the

356th Fighter Group and sent to England in the summer of 1943.

It was in a P-47 that Strait had his first victory against the Germans when he shot down a Messerschmitt Me 109 fighter aircraft in February 1944. By the end of the war, Strait gained 13.5 aerial victories in the P-47 and the P-51D Mustang. In a sign of how his command career would progress, by the end of 1944, he had been promoted to commander of the 361st Fighter Squadron – the only captain in the 8th Air Force to command a squadron.

At war’s end, Strait returned to New Jersey, where he served as commander of the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing. During the Korean War, he was one of two Air National Guard officers promoted to colonel. He was responsible for setting up the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing at McGuire Air Force Base and moving the 119th Fighter Group from Newark to Atlantic City. In 1955, he was the first Air Guard officer to graduate from Air War College. A year later he did a 21-month tour at the Pentagon as the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Air Force ROTC, Air Guard, Air Reserve and Civil Air Patrol Affairs all the while serving as the 108th’s commander.

He later became the first Air National Guard officer in New Jersey to be promoted to major general and was selected as the commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard serving from 1958 to 1971.

“I’m a product of the Air National Guard. I can say that with all respect because the Air Guard did everything for me,” said Strait.

- *This article contains quotes from an interview with retired Maj. Gen Donald J. Strait, NJANG by Chief Master Sgt. David P. Anderson from the Air National Guard History Program on May 15, 2008.*





U.S. Rep. Jon Runyan, N.J. 3rd District and Brig. Gen Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, entomb the ashes of 4,321 U.S. flags at a Flag Retirement Service during the Veterans Day celebration at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., Nov. 11, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



Color Guards from Fr Washington Post 1710, Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, Inc., post the colors at the Veterans Day celebration at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus Nov. 12, 2013. Following the Veterans Day ceremony, a 6-by-10-foot acrylic mural named "Lest We Forget" was unveiled at the front lobby of the Home. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Armando Vasquez/NJDMAVA)

Holiday Mail: Send it early

WASHINGTON - With the holidays coming up fast, now is the time to consider mailing early, especially to loved ones overseas, said Peter Graeve, a retired Soldier who is now with the Military Postal Service Agency.

Despite the popularity of sending cards via the Internet and chatting on social media, Soldiers really like to receive something they can put in their hands, he said. "It's one of those traditions that's still with us. They still appreciate getting letters and packages."

Graeve said the volume of letters and packages increases this time of year due to gifts being sent by spouses, girlfriends, boyfriends, family and friends. But he said in addition to that, care packages seem to be especially popular.

Care packages include things like chocolates, soap and toothbrushes. "Even though they have it over there, the Soldiers really seem to appreciate receiving the items anyway," he said.

Although there are fewer Soldiers in remote areas of Afghanistan and other countries, there are still some in outposts that don't have Internet access, he said. These Soldiers especially look forward to mail call.

Getting your package there on time

To get mail to a Soldier by Christmas at APO/FPO/DPO AE 090-092, 094-098, 340, or 962-966, the latest a package can be sent to arrive on time is Dec. 17 - that means senders have to pay for Express mail. To send them earlier - and pay less - senders

can put them in the mail by Dec. 10, and pay for either 1st Class or Priority mail.

Priority mail to APO/FPO/DPO AE 093 must be sent by Dec. 3.

The deadline for Parcel Post to all locations mentioned is Nov. 12.

The deadline for SAM parcels for all locations mentioned is Nov. 26. SAM parcels are paid at the Parcel Post postage rate with maximum weight and size limits of 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined. SAM parcels are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis.

The deadline for PAL for all locations mentioned is Dec. 3. PAL is a service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage.

All classes of mail addressed to FPO/APO addresses must use the nine-digit ZIP code to ensure delivery. Mail not addressed correctly will be returned to the sender as undeliverable.

It is recommended that customers check with their local civilian or military post office for information on size restrictions and the possible need for customs declaration forms.

Restrictions

As a reminder, some items cannot be mailed. Examples include switchblade



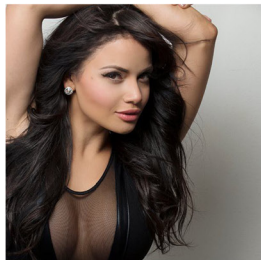
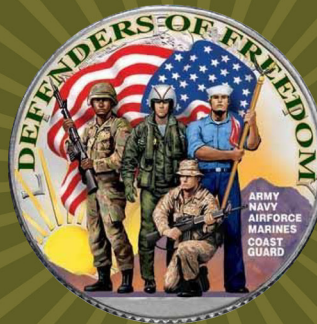
knives, pornography, controlled substances, and explosive or incendiary devices. If in doubt as to what can or cannot be sent through the mail, contact your local civilian or military post office.

Some other tips include choosing a box with enough room for cushioning material around the contents, and ensuring that old labels and markings on used boxes are covered.

Senders should also be sure to use adequate tape to seal their packages, and reinforce the seams with two-inch wide tape. Use clear or brown packaging tape, reinforced packing tape or paper tape.

As a final note, customers are cautioned that packages must not be mailed in boxes that have markings related to any type of hazardous material, such as bleach, alcohol, or cleaning fluids. Parcels found by the U.S. Postal Service with such markings or labels on the outside of the box will not be processed.

GIVE THANKS MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY! SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH



- Meet ANGT Spokesmodel Samantha Sepulveda and some of our select "America's HOT Girls of the GYM"
- S4 Army, Navy store
- HD Wiley – Dale Corvino
- Shoei Police and HJC - Luis Ortega
- Maxum Cigars
- Bell and Roland Sands
Marc Grossman
- Door prizes!
- H-D Survival Strap
- Leather Patch – Adam Yuzuk
Buy/bring a patch, get it sewn on here!
- Jerzey Tattoo – Bruce Walker
- Donate \$10 or more and spin the BCH-D Prize Wheel!



Stratman Harley's Heros Collectible T-shirt
all proceeds from T-shirt sales goes to the DAV



Door prizes donated by:

- VF - Gene Caponigro
- Survival Strap- Michele Brown
- Jerzey Tattoo - Bruce Walker
- HD Wiley – Dale Corvino



Sign our banner and send a message to our troops!
First 200 to sign get a limited edition sticker!



Proceeds from the day go to the
NJ National Guard Child & Youth Program



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