

Vetera**N** Journal



"Serving Those Who Served"

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Fall 2005

Be Powerful, Be Heard



A special program to salute present and past members of America's armed forces was held at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville May 18.

The program was part of Attorney General Peter C. Harvey's "Be Powerful, Be Heard" initiative to encourage all eligible New Jersey citizens to register and vote. On hand for the ceremony were members of the New Jersey National Guard, veterans community leaders and other guests and dignitaries. Also taking part in this tribute were members of National Guard units and members of various chapters of the Ameri-

can Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Jewish War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Military personnel participated in the taping of television public service announcements encouraging veterans and military personnel around the world to register and vote. The spots will run on New Jersey television and be made available to military installations worldwide via the Internet at www.NJElections.org. Photo by Sina Adl, Office of The Attorney General.

Be Powerful, Be Heard New Jersey



My Fellow Veterans,

As you all are aware, this is a major election year in New Jersey. We will be electing a new Governor as well as the entire General Assembly on November 8th. It is important that you get-out and vote because if a large number of veterans turn out on Election Day, it will strengthen my position as I work for you on veteran's issues.

I vote to honor my civic responsibility; to honor the fallen Soldiers from my unit; and all those proud heroes who never made it home.

But most of all, I vote because it makes a material difference in the lives of soldiers and families in my state. When elected officials know I care – and that I will make my voice heard – it makes a difference.

I am proud that mine was one among five million votes cast in New Jersey during the last election. However, only 20 percent of my veteran brothers and sisters in arms votes.

Despite the valiant efforts of these fighting men and women to defend that most cherished freedom of democracy, so many of us forget to hold the lines on election day.

It's time to report for duty one more time. Service members, veterans and civilians – we all need to *fall-in*.

We're fit, ready and able. We're here for duty. We're proud to serve again.

Be Powerful, Be Heard – Vote New Jersey!

With regards,

Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs



Veteran
Journal

Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth
The Adjutant General

Col. (Ret.) Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs

Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt
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The **New Jersey 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, and concerned individuals and groups. All correspondence should be sent to the editor at: NJDMAVA, PAO-V, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

INDEX

Be Powerful Be Heard	1
DCVA Message	2
Governor's Letter	3
WW II Memorial	4
Kiosk Highlights Benefits	5
Veterans Homes Criteria	6
Reconstitution Process	7
NJ Vets Benefits	8
Stand Down 2005	9
One Shots	10
Grave Blankets	11
VSO Listing	12

Message From The Governor

Dear Friends:

As you know, Election Day is drawing near. Nobody's vote is more important than that of New Jersey's veterans. As men and women who have served to preserve our liberties, your say is central to the concerns of our residents. Your voice must be heard on November 8th.

This year, New Jersey will be one of only two states to elect a new Governor. I know first hand that the job of Governor is a demanding and important task. This leader must be chosen carefully, and must truly represent the interests of the people. That is why it is essential that all New Jerseyans exercise their civic responsibility and vote.

New election laws allow all voters to use absentee ballots. Voting is now possible by mail through absentee ballot to any resident who chooses to do so. You can find out how to acquire your absentee ballot by visiting the Office of the Attorney General's Division of Elections website at www.nj.gov/lps/elections.

In New Jersey, we understand and appreciate the importance of our brave veterans. You have already shown your love and respect of your state and country by serving so nobly. This November, I ask that you show that love and respect by casting your vote.

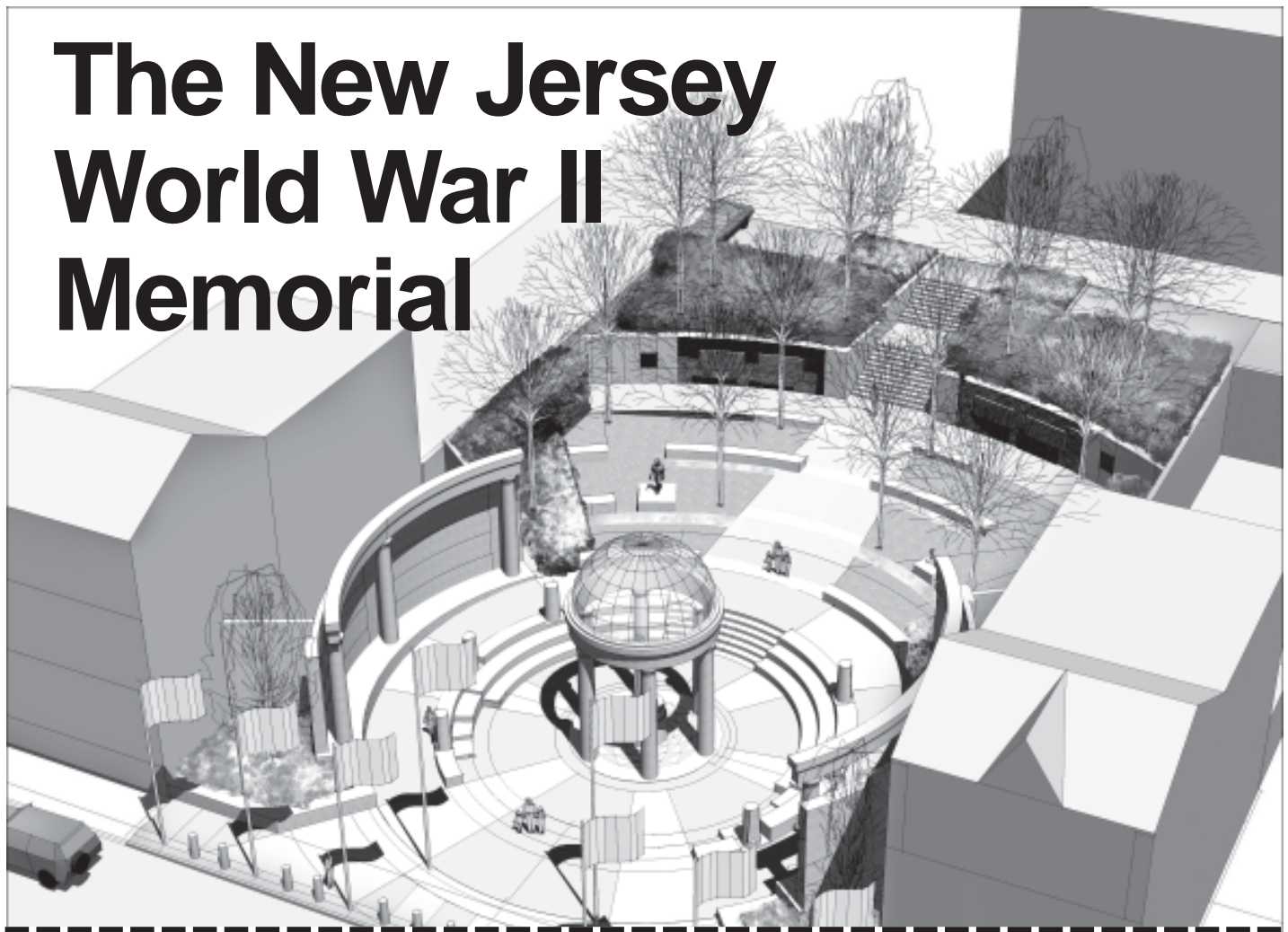


With regards,

Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor



The New Jersey World War II Memorial



State of New Jersey

World War II Memorial at Veterans Park (Trenton)

Today fewer and fewer Americans have a personal connection or awareness of the sacrifices and courage of New Jersey's World War II Veterans and Generation. It is the Commission's goal to dedicate the WWII Memorial in the Fall of 2005. Time is quickly passing. We urge you to support the New Jersey World War II Memorial through a tax-deductible contribution.

*Individual Donors:
Eagle: \$1,000 and up
Falcon: \$500 - \$999
Hawk: \$100 - \$499
Osprey: \$25 - \$99
Other: \$ _____*

Name

Phone

Address/City/State/Zip

*Memorial donations are payable to: Treasurer, State of New Jersey**

**Indicate on check: NJ WWII Memorial*

*Mail to: WWII Memorial Commission
c/o Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs-DVS
PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
Contact: 609-530-7049*



Kiosk Highlights Veterans' Benefits



Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Stephen G. Abel (right), and Susan Howlett (center), Marketing Director, Ocean County Mall, discuss the location of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) Kiosk while William J. Devereaux (left), Director of Veterans Programs looks on.

Beginning in January, the Department's veterans' kiosk will be traveling to a different mall each month around the state. The kiosk highlights the various programs and points of contact for applying for benefits.

This is in direct response to the recent Inspector General Report documenting the inequity in VA service-connected compensation to N.J. veterans versus other states' veterans populations. NJDMAVA has embarked on an ambitious outreach program that is designed to inform veterans of their benefits and entitlements.

It is estimated that approximately 12,000 N.J. Veterans are entitled to VA service-connected compensation, but have failed to make application for their benefits.

Veterans and their dependents wishing to learn more about their benefits can call 1-888-8 NJ VETS. This number can also be found on a bumper stickers. Counseling for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder can be reached at the new 24/7 Hotline number 1-866-VETS - NJ - 4U.

Finally, a new series of public service announcements detailing the services available to veterans and their dependents and contact information can be seen on television.

For more information, call the numbers above or see your local county veteran services officer (see back cover for location listing). Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Veterans Day Events Schedule

Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m., Kittatinny, Regional High School, Newton

Nov. 11, 11 a.m., Brigadier General William C. Doyle Cemetery, Arnetown

Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m., Pavilions at Forrestal, Princeton

Nov. 12, noon, Luncheon, Trenton Daughters of the American Revolution, Trenton

Nov. 13, 7 p.m., 1st Presbyterian Church, Woodbridge

Veterans Memorial Homes Admission Criteria

By Brig. Gen. Frank R. Carlini, Director, Division of Veterans Healthcare Services

Recently, there have been some questions about eligibility for admission into our New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes.

Our homes are open to veterans of all wars who served on active duty (90 days total active duty service) and were honorably discharged. Veterans must have been state residents for at least two years prior to application for admission or were citizens of New Jersey at the time of entrance into military service. National Guard and Reserve Retirees who were never deployed but have 20 good years of service are also eligible.

The veteran's spouse, including widows and widowers and Gold Star Parents, are also eligible for admission. A spouse, widow, or widower must be at least

50 years of age and must have been married to the veteran for a period of not less than 10 years. Residents' pay according to ability based on income and accrued assets.

The process for admission begins with the submission of an application, which can be obtained from any of our homes. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to visit the home of their choice for assistance in the admission process. If you are interested in a tour, please contact the facility directly.

For more information, or if you would like an application for admission, please contact 1-800-624-0508, or 732-452-4133 (Menlo Park), 201-634-8539 (Paramus), or 856-696-4217 (Vineland).

New Jersey Veterans Home Update

Paramus Veterans Memorial Home

Ms. Doris Neibart, Chief Executive Officer of the Paramus facility, was recently inducted as President of the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) at the National Conference held in Washington State.

As president, Ms. Neibart will be meeting with the VA, Senators, and members of the House of Representatives to discuss these important issues. The President serves for a one-year term. Ms. Neibart had recently been the NASVH Vice-President.

The Association is dedicated to the "caring of America's Heroes." NASVH's priorities for the next year are to continue to protect our veterans benefits for all those who served our country honorably, with emphasis on the proposed VA budget cuts, per diem drug reimbursement, and construction and grant programs.

Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home

Mr. Joseph Brandspiegel, Chief Executive Officer, food service staff, and residents collected \$1,300 for the Katrina relief effort.

They presented the check to the Salvation Army of New Brunswick, New Jersey on Sept. 23. Theresa Burrows, Juanita Ceralde, Joyce Lin, and Larry Maynes led the Food Service Department in a Bake Sale that raised \$1,000 as part of this effort. Additionally, the Menlo Park facility also collected bottled water for the victims filling the home's SUVs.

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

Construction has been completed on the new Vineland home and it is a beautiful addition to our long-term care facilities.

All residents will now be housed in a single two story ultra-modern facility. Residents are scheduled to begin moving into the new home on or about Nov. 1. The final phase of the construction will be tearing down the three older buildings that compromised the Vineland facility and finishing the parking lots and grounds.



Joseph Brandspiegel (right), Chief Executive Officer, Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home and Roger Vonah (left), driver, pose with some of the water collected for the hurricane Katrina relief effort. Photo by Christine McNulty.

Vets Programs Participates In Reconstitution

By *Patty Richter, Chief, Veterans Benefits Bureau*

Returning service members are more likely than ever to have experienced stressors with deployment and will face significant changes at home.

Soldiers returning from deployment are faced with finding a "new normal." They have to adjust to their family, workplace and community. In order to do this successfully, The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has initiated a Reconstitution Program for our demobilized Soldiers.

During the Reconstitution briefing the soldiers and families are made aware of the psychological challenges of transitioning from active duty to a citizen lifestyle and they are provided with an opportunity to meet with a counselor. All soldiers are educated on enrolling into the VA Health Care system after deployment, applying for VA Disability Compensation, Educational Benefits, Home Loan opportunities, the soldiers are immediately entered into the state system as veterans for civil service and pension purposes. Additionally, they are approved for the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and they are also given information on specific state and federal benefits. Once the soldiers return to their drill status, which is 60 days after demobilization, our Veterans Affairs Team provides a follow up at the drill site.

Family members are unsure what to expect, their soldier may seem distant and unemotional when they return and may have dif-



Patty Richter addresses New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers going through a reconstitution briefing sponsored by the NJDMAVA. Photo by Lt. Col. Roberta Niedt, NJDMAVA/PAO.

ficulty warming up to their family, therefore causing additional stressors for the entire family.

Among soldiers serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom there is an increase in divorce rates, suicide rates and vehicle fatalities. PTSD is also a large concern; a recent study from Walter Reed reported one in six returning troops suffer psychological damage.

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey developed a free 24 hour confidential helpline staffed by veterans, volunteers, counselors, and clinical professionals who understand what our service members are going through.

Participating in this program, veterans will receive peer support, clinical assessments and case management. Veterans are referred to a Comprehensive Mental Health Vet work of providers within their home of record. The hotline number is 1-86-VETS-NJ 4 U (1-

866-838-7654).

To date we have 71 percent of our reserve soldiers deployed, the Army and Air Force will increase the number of reservist in support of the partial mobilization which will bring the total percentage to 75 percent by the end of the year. These service members are heroes who are returning to their civilian lives and jobs as fully productive members of their communities. Every one of them is a veteran with full state and federal entitlements.

If you have any questions or are interested in having our team brief you please contact Patricia Richter, Chief, Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6949.

"Serving Those Who Served"

**Remember,
Hire A Vet!**

Your New Jersey Veterans Benefits

Compiled by Veterans Benefits Bureau

Education Benefits/ POW/MIA/ War Orphans

The Veterans Tuition Credit Program provides an educational support entitlement to full-time and part-time students who are resident veterans and served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States from December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975.

POW/MIAs program is available to any dependent of a prisoner of war or missing in action that was a resident upon being accepted to pursue a course of undergraduate study in any private institution of higher education. The dependent shall be allowed to obtain a bachelor's degree free of tuition.

For further information contact your school official in charge of veteran's affairs or by calling New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 609-530-6854.

Veterans Preference for Civil Service and Pension Purposes

Effective March 1, 2001, NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is the agency to determine veterans preference for hiring in New Jersey civil service and veterans status for New Jersey civil service pension plans.

War period veterans who pass state civil service examinations are given absolute preference over non-veterans when applying for state, county and municipal employment. Absolute preference is not extended to promotions, but if a veteran ranks highest on a promotional certification, a non-veteran cannot be offered the appointment before the veteran. Veterans with service-connected disabilities (at least 10 percent) who pass civil

service examinations are given preference over other veterans and non-veterans.

To claim veteran's preference, file the claim form with a copy of your separation papers (DD Form 214.) Mail the form to the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Bureau, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. You must obtain a veteran preference from the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs BEFORE CLOSE DATE for a job or a test.

For information call Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6958, 609-530-6954, or 1-800-624-0508 or visit any state Veterans Service office.

Veterans Property Tax Deduction/Exemption

The New Jersey Property Tax Deduction is an annual property tax deduction of \$250 for veterans honorably discharged from active wartime period. Filing must be done prior to Dec. 31 of the pre-tax year.

Documentation will include the property deed and discharge (DD-214) for the veteran. Widows will need to re-submit the property deed, marriage certificate, death certificate and discharge (DD-214).

Eligibility criteria requires service during a specified wartime period, honorable discharge and rated 100 percent permanent service-connected by Veterans Affairs.

Catastrophic Entitlements

Residents of the state who served in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States during a wartime period and who have a 100 percent permanent service-connected disability rating

from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for one of seven disabilities declared to be catastrophic in nature by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. A monthly entitlement of \$62.50 is available. To apply see a State VSO for a New Jersey Catastrophic Entitlement Application or contact the Division of Veterans Programs at 609-530-6854.

Transportation Program

Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers and clinics, other hospitals, private physicians, VA Regional Office and local Veterans Service Offices.

For more information, contact your county State Veterans Service Officer.

PTSD Counseling

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) in conjunction with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey developed a free 24 hour confidential helpline staffed by veterans, volunteers, counselors, and clinical professionals who understand what our service members are going through.

Veterans participating in this program will receive peer support, clinical assessments and case management. Veterans are referred to a Comprehensive Mental Health Vet work of providers within their home of record. The hotline number is 1-866-VETS-NJ 4 U (1-866-838-7654)



Stand Down 2005: A Hand Up

Photo and story by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA



Master Sgt. James McCloskey (right), 177th Fighter Wing Medical Group takes a veteran's blood pressure during Stand Down 2005.

On Sept. 23, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc., hosted Stand Down 2005 at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill.

This follows a Stand Down that was held a week previously at Essex County Community College in Newark on Sept. 17.

DMAVA, along with many volunteers and civic organizations held the Stand Down to provide homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services availability, religious

counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. Stand Down's ultimate goal is to show disenfranchised veterans that someone still cares and to assist them in bringing their homelessness to a close.

This is the fourth year that

Stand Down was held at the Cherry Hill Armory. Before 2000, Stand Downs were held at Fort Dix and Naval Weapon Station Lakehurst. Last year 137 homeless veterans and their families attended the Stand Down.

On any given night there are an estimated 341,000 homeless veterans in the U.S., up from 274,000 in 1995. About one-third of the homeless have served in the Armed Forces. The number of homeless Vietnam veterans exceeds the number of servicemembers killed during any given conflict. And finally, there are currently 7,500

homeless veterans in New Jersey.

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. Today Stand Downs are grass roots, community-based intervention program to help homeless veterans battle life on the streets. The program has a philosophy of a hand up not a hand out. The first Stand Down was held in 1988 in San Diego. Today more than 80 are held annually to reach an estimated 100,000 homeless veterans.

The organizations that supported Stand Down 2005 were NJDMAVA, Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc., the Veterans Administration, The Retired Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Marine Corps League, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Veterans of Foreign War, Gold Star Wives, Jewish War Veterans, Burlington County Veterans Services Office, Camden County Veterans Services Office, Camden County Board of Social Services, Community Services of Camden County, U.S. Department of Labor and the Fort Dix post chaplains.

Range Hosts Vineland Vets

Veterans and members of the 177th Fighter Wing and 108th Air Refueling Wing protect their eyes as they watch a mini-air show at the Warren Grove Training Range Sept. 22. Military members of Warren Grove Range, the 177th and 108th hosted veterans from the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home at an annual barbecue and air show at the Range. The program was organized by the Range personnel, Senior Master Sgt. Tom Dunn and Senior Master Sgt. Tim Donovan from the 177th, and Master Sgt. Steve Sabato from the 108th. This event, along with the Holiday Party at the Vineland Home has been a New Jersey Air National Guard tradition for a number of years. Photo by Master Sgt. Anthony Christmas, 177FW.



One Shots: NJ Veterans In The Spotlight



Marine Receives Award

Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Stephen G. Abel (center) presents Gunnery Sgt. William H. Wind (left) with a New Jersey Korean Service Medal at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City July 27. First Sergeant (ret) Iven Dumas (right) served as the acting as Aide-de-Camp. Photo courtesy Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.



Flag Presented

At this year's State Elk's Convention, Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Abel presented Robert Mauro with a flag and certificate that was flown over Baghdad, Iraq, by the 1st Battalion, 150th General Support Aviation Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, in recognition for all that the New Jersey State Elks do for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and New Jersey's Veterans during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo courtesy Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.



POW/MIAs Honored

Assemblyman Jack Connors (left), District 7 and Chairman of General Assembly's Veterans Affairs Committee, poses with Judith Young (middle), National President of Gold Star Wives and Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Stephen G. Abel DCVA Steven Abel during an event honoring POWs and MIAs on Sept. 16 at Edgewater Park. NJDMAVA Photo.



Vets Haven Receives Donation

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right), The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs Stephen G. Abel (left) along with Bob Sauselein (center), Veterans Haven Supervisor pose with Margaret McMahon (second from left) American Legion Auxiliary President 2004 and Jim Vialard (second from right), American Legion Commander 2004, May 2. The Legion donated \$17,941 to the transitional housing program for homeless veterans at Veterans Haven. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



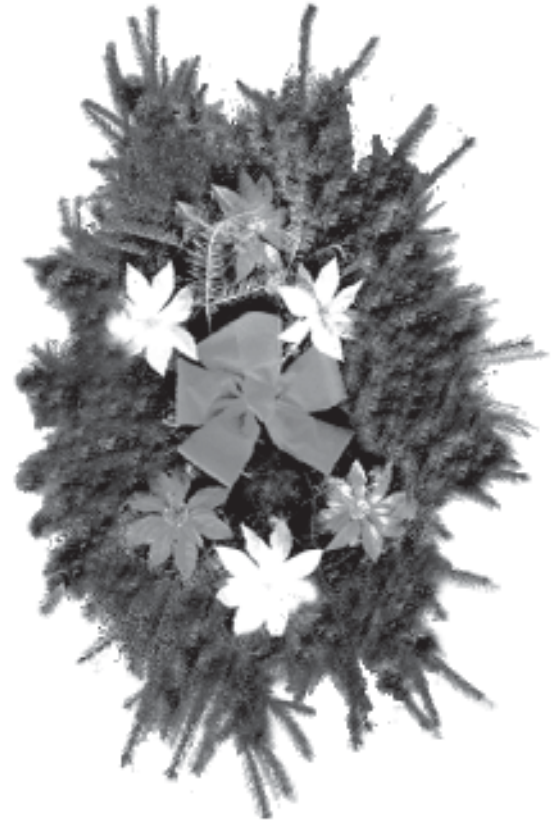
State of New Jersey

VETERANS CEMETERY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
350 Provinceline Road
Wrightstown, NJ 08562

Grave blankets (2 ft x 3 ft) are available from the Veterans Cemetery Advisory Council during the 2005 holiday season.

To have a blanket placed on your loved one's grave by 5 December, the cost is \$30 if received by 15 November. For orders placed after 15 November, please add a \$5 late order fee. Blankets ordered after this date will be placed on the grave by 15 December. There will be no orders accepted after 10 December.

Contact us at 609-758-7250
or visit our web site: www.state.nj.us/military/cemetery



This is a fundraiser and profits from the sale of grave blankets benefit the beautification of the cemetery.

*Please submit the order form to the address above along with your check payable to:
"BG Doyle Cemetery Memorialization Fund"*

2005 HOLIDAY SEASON

Amount Enclosed

Purchaser's Name:

Phone:

Address

City, State, Zip

Name of Deceased:

Grave #/Section

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

Atlantic/Cape May

John Valenta, VSO
Lonna Remsen, Sec.
1601 Atlantic Avenue,
7th Fl.
Atlantic City 08401
609-441-3060/3061
Fax: 609-441-3899

Bergen

Robert Maulano, VSO
Luz Isip, Sec.
Center City Plaza
60 State Street
Hackensack 07601-5427
201-996-8050/8051
Fax: 201-996-8009

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Charles Piscopo, VSO
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1000 Howard Blvd.,
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Mt. Laurel 08054
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Fax: 856-787-3822

Camden/Gloucester

Guy Wiener, VSO
William McDonnell, VSO
Diane Rosci, Sec.
215 Crown Point Rd.,
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Thorofare 08086
856-853-4184/4185/4186
Fax: 856-384-3781

Essex/Union

Moise Abraham, VSO
Carolanne Guzzi, Sec.
1196 Chestnut Street
Elizabeth 07201-1053
908-820-3133/3134
Fax: 908-965-2954

Hudson

Edna Jones, VSO
Helen Banks, Sec.
3rd Fl, Rm. 302
438 Summit Avenue,
Jersey City 07306-3158
201-798-7040/7051/7026
Fax: 201-798-7036

Mercer

David Martin, VSO
Theresa Tomecheck, Sec.
28 W. State Street, 5th Fl.
PO 671, Room 514
Trenton 08625-0671
609-292-5880/5881
Fax: 609-633-6852

Middlesex/Somerset

Joseph Battito, VSO
Lillian Pacheco, Sec.
711 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick
08901-2102
732-937-6347/6348/6349
Fax: 732-937-6417

Monmouth

Donald McNamara, VSO
Carolyn Brown, Sec.
Suite 320
630 Bangs Avenue,
Asbury Park 07712-6904
732-775-7009/7005
Fax: 732-775-3612

Fort Monmouth Clinic

8:30 am – 12 noon
(Thursday)
732-532-4465

Ocean

Joseph Salzano, VSO
Phyllis Goffin, Sec.
James J. Howard
Outpatient Clinic
970 Rt 70
Brick 08724-3550
732-840-3033/3034
Fax: 732-840-0399

Passaic

Leonard E. Johnson, VSO
Titus Osuagwu, Sec.
100 Hamilton Plaza,
6th Fl.
Paterson 07505-2101
973-977-4050/4051/4556
Fax: 973-977-4464

Salem/Cumberland

William Burrows, VSO
Robert Del Percio, VSO
524 Northwest Blvd.
Vineland 08360-2895
856-696-6452/6445/6451
Fax: 856-696-6499

Sussex/Morris

Bruce Stanley, VSO
5 South Park Drive
Newton 07860-5000
973-383-4949/1363
Fax: 973-383-1272
Dover (Wednesday)
973-366-8347

Warren/Hunterdon

Monica Banca, VSO
Lisa Szymanski, Sec.
550 A Route 57
Port Murray 07865-9482
908-689-5840/5845
Fax: 908-689-5879

Ft. Dix

Donald Turner,
Information Officer
National Guard
Headquarters,
Bldg 3650, 2nd Fl.
Saylors Pond Road
Ft. Dix, NJ 08640
609-562-0952

For information on veterans' entitlements call toll-free 1-800-624-0508, or go online to:
www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html

State of New Jersey
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
PO Box 340
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0340

