

# Vetera**N** Journal

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED  
SEPTEMBER 2013



# The DCVA's message

## Fellow Veterans,

It has been said that the word 'Veteran' and 'homeless' should never appear in the same sentence. But that is the unfortunate reality.

I am proud to say that few agencies in government or the private sector have done more to help once-homeless Veterans return to productive lives than the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Over the past two years, DMAVA has more than tripled the services provided to homeless Veterans through its time-tested transitional housing programs.

The number of beds at the Department's long-running facility, Vet Haven South in Winslow Township, Gloucester County, doubled to 99 last year through a \$5.9 million expansion partially funded by the U.S. Veterans Administration.

In September, operations began at Vet Haven North in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County, and the facility is helping put its residents on a path to self-sufficiency using the same formula of job training and life-skills building.

Make no mistake, the Vet Haven formula works.

Three out of four of the roughly 1,000 Vet Haven South residents who completed the program since it opened in 1995 returned to purposeful and productive lives. There is every indication that Vet Haven North will enjoy the same record of success.

In this issue, you will read about one of Vet Haven North's early success stories, Troy Cox. Hurricane Sandy stripped the Navy Veteran of everything, yet with the assistance of Vet Haven North, Cox has become a small business owner – and an employer of other once-homeless Veterans.

The effort to assist homeless Veterans has garnered renewed national attention thanks to VA Secretary Eric



Shinseki's stated goal of ending Veteran homelessness by 2015.

It is a lofty goal, but one worth pursuing.

Although encouragement – and funding – from the VA helps the Department in its war against Veteran homelessness in New Jersey, the most powerful weapon we have is you, the Veteran.

The state's Veterans organizations have proven themselves to be force multipliers time and again. For example, this state's Veterans' organizations have logged more than 70,000 hours at DMAVA's three veterans' homes and have donated more than \$410,000 in goods to the Homes and their residents.

The Vet Haven program has also received generous support from our Veterans organizations, from computer equipment at Vet Haven South to a new van for Vet Haven North.

As I said before, the VA goal of eliminating Veteran homelessness is a tall order.

But I know that the Department will continue to do everything in its power to make the goal a reality in New Jersey and I know we will have our partners in the Veterans community by our side every step of the way.

I think we can all agree with this statement made recently by Shinseki.

"No one who has served this nation should ever be living on the street." 🇺🇸

**Chris Christie**  
Governor

**Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff**  
The Adjutant General

**Raymond L. Zawacki**  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Veterans Affairs

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## Cover: A helping hand

*Tech. Sgt. Jamal J. Hogan, right, independent duty medical technician, 108th Contingency Response Group, checks the blood sugar of a homeless veteran during Stand Down 2012 at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill Sept. 28, 2012. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)*

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# SUICIDE

“...Military suicides eclipse combat deaths report states”

New Jersey's programs are the model DoD is using to combat this new enemy

*Story by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

It had been an unimaginably tumultuous time for the young New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier. In a span of 24 hours, his car broke down, his civilian employer laid him off and he was forced from his apartment after discovering his live-in girlfriend there with another man.

*Continued on Page 4*

# NJ LEADS BATTLE AGAINST SUICIDE

*Continued from Page 3*

The Soldier soon found himself sitting in the car that now held all his belongings, clutching a bottle of pills and contemplating suicide. He made a phone call instead.

Fortunately, the voice at the other end of the line belonged to Dr. Cynthia Lischick, the full-time director of psychological health for New Jersey National Guard Family Programs, who convinced the Soldier that ending his life was not the answer. In the days that followed, the Soldier was connected with more professionals who ultimately helped him find a new job and a place to live.

The safety net that caught this Soldier here in New Jersey is one of the most comprehensive systems to be created anywhere in America to assist service members, Veterans and their families with mental health issues including suicide prevention, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and substance abuse. In the past eight years, New Jersey has created a unique umbrella of organizations and partnerships using a blend of state and federal funding to create a system that is saving lives. It's a system that has helped the state maintain one of the lowest suicide rates in the Army National Guard.

"Suicide prevention is our number-one priority," said Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General. "And it starts with every Soldier and every Airman. We need to look out for each other."

The New Jersey National Guard has made resiliency training a cornerstone of its suicide-prevention efforts to break the negative stigma associated with mental-health issues. In addition to training unit-level suicide prevention specialists, the National Guard has established the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center (JMFAC) located at the Bordentown armory.

Even these measures are no guar-

antee of success.

In most of the country, our military – particularly the active Army and the Army National Guard -- is grappling with what could only be described as a suicide epidemic. Although the suicide rate for the active Army and Army National Guard leveled off in 2009 after five years of increases, the rates increased over the first seven months of this year and eclipsed more than one a day in July.

*“They want to hear from someone who knows that PTSD is real, traumatic brain injury is real, that feeling like you’re in a dark place and can’t get out is real.”*

**Melissa Tippet**  
Vets4Warriors counselor

Public awareness of this issue was heightened by a Time Magazine cover story in July that not only laid out the grim numbers but put human faces on the tragedy. Two of the most heartbreaking stories were those of Ian Morrison, 26, a West Pointer and attack helicopter pilot, and Dr. Michael McClendon, 37, an obstetrician who had once been an enlisted Soldier on a bomb squad. Both men were captains. Both took their own lives 4,000 miles apart on March 21 after each had repeatedly tried to get help for the deep depression that had overwhelmed them.

The effort to keep our service members from falling through the cracks begins practically the first day they put on the uniform.

After the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard complete their training and join their units, some of the first people they hear from are chaplains assistants and people like Staff Sgt. Jamie Gayner, who serves as the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training non-commissioned officer with the 119th Combat Service

Support Battalion in Cherry Hill. It's her job to train other leaders about the ways to identify at-risk Soldiers. She also takes it upon herself to be a walking rolodex of resources both inside and outside the military where a Soldier can turn to for anything from help finding a new job to a trained mental health specialist.

"Getting people help when they need it is my passion," says Gaynor,

who is majoring in social work at Rutgers University.

Giving service members the tools they need to tackle their challenges before they become a crisis is at the heart of New Jersey National Guard Family Programs. From an office in Bordentown, more than a dozen full-time professionals assist National Guard members and their families with issues ranging from civilian employment, to relationships with spouses and children, to all aspects of mental health. The work done in Bordentown compliments the work done by the staff at eight Family Assistance Centers collocated with Army Guard armories and Air Guard families.

Family Programs takes the lead on all issues involving the reintegration of Soldiers back into their civilian lives following a deployment, with a particular focus on mental health.

The mental health resources at Family Programs were bolstered three years ago with the hiring of Dr. Cynthia Lischick as Director of Psychological Health.

***"We remain one of the lowest suicide rates among the states and there's a reason for that. A lot of it is that we have military commanders who understand and have seen to it that we are resource rich."***

**DR. CYNTHIA LISCHICK AS DIRECTOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH**

In those years, Lischick has successfully intervened in more than 50 cases where a Soldier was contemplating suicide. Although her main objective is to link Soldiers suffering from mental health issues with other professionals who can provide long-term counseling if needed, she often fills that gap in cases where other treatment is not available. But she's a fierce advocate for Soldiers in helping them immediately access mental health services, often accompanying them to facilities run by the U.S. Veterans Administration – and not leaving until they are screened, prescribed medication if needed, and a follow-up treatment plan established.

"I'm 24/7, 365," Lischick says. "And that's fine because I love my job. I was told when I was hired it would be the best job I'd ever had and it is. This is one of the best National Guard organizations to work with. I have none of the problems I've heard from my counterparts in other places. We remain one of the lowest suicide rates among the states and there's a reason for that. A lot of it is that we have military commanders who understand and have seen to it that we are resource rich."

New Jersey is one of only seven states that provide additional mental health services for Veterans and the only state to extend this assistance to their families.

The state of New Jersey became a pioneer for mental health services for its service members and Veterans nearly a decade ago with the launch of Vet2Vet, a toll free, 24-hour Veterans Helpline – 1-866-838-7654 (1-866-VETS-NJ4).

More than 3,500 Veterans and nearly 1,500 family members have called this number and been connected with one of the dozen Veteran peer counselors who man the phones. The hotline, which is run in partnership with the University of Medicine



***Melissa Tippett, a Vets4Warriors counselor works the Vet2Vet hotline, a toll free, 24-hour Veterans Helpline, which is run in partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The helpline has been widely emulated by other state and federal agencies. Tippett was injured by a roadside bomb during a tour in Iraq as an Army military policeman. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs)***

and Dentistry of New Jersey has been widely emulated by other state and federal agencies.

Perhaps the ultimate recognition of the potency of Vet2Vet came in December when the National Guard Bureau selected UMDNJ's University Behavioral Health Care to launch a federally-funded companion service called Vets4Warriors. And it is exactly what its name describes, Veterans helping those still in uniform. The helpline is available to current and former National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the country. Since its launch, Vets4Warriors has fielded calls from more than 13,000 Veterans.

The mission of Vets4Warriors is to connect Veterans with the help they need for any mental health issue, and to do it with fellow vets who speak their language. The top issues facing these Veterans – more than one third of whom served in Iraq or Afghanistan – are anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, medical issues, post-traumatic stress disorder.

Many of the callers are just looking to talk to someone who has walked in their shoes.

"They want to hear from someone who knows that PTSD is real, traumatic brain injury is real, that feeling like you're in a dark place and can't get out is real," says Melissa Tippett, a Vets4Warriors counselor who was injured by a roadside bomb during a tour in Iraq as an Army military policeman.

Tippett came home from Iraq with pieces of shrapnel still lodged in her body from the blast and a numbness in half her body. Her most vivid memory of coming home was dropping to her belly and low-crawling through a Walmart parking lot near Fort Polk, La., when a car backfired.

"Someone was walking past me and said something like 'It's OK, you're home now' and I felt a little better," she said. "That's why I love this job. If a service like Vets4Warriors would have been around when I came home, it might have made a big difference in how I dealt with things." 🕒



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA MAKES WAVES



Photo above: Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, far right, watches as Gold Star Mother Ruth Stonesifer and Capt. David J. Harrison, commander, Naval Weapons Station Earle, lay a wreath in memory of fallen service members off the battleship *New Jersey's* port stern at Camden, N.J., June 3, 2012. Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard along with their families, as well as Sailors from Naval Weapons Station Earle and residents from Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park were treated by Jersey Mike's Subs to Christmas in July on the battleship. The event was held to raise awareness for Wreaths Across America (WAA). For more than 20 years, WAA places a holiday wreath on each of the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

Photo right: The Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery was the site for one of the many Wreaths Across America ceremonies held nationwide on Dec. 15, 2012. Civil Air Patrol cadets provided a color guard and participated in placing wreaths on more than hundred gravesites at the state veterans' cemetery in Burlington County. (Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs)



# Historic "Huey" donated to NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Soldiers from the New Jersey Army National Guard on Monday delivered a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter that flew hundreds of combat missions during the Vietnam War to members of the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation.

Foundation members, including Vietnam helicopter pilots Carl W. Burns and Ken Gurbisz, will lead a restoration effort they hope will transform the airship to its former luster for display in front of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel.

The aircraft served two Vietnam tours, the first with the 116th Assault Helicopter Company in Cu Chi and the second with the 118th Assault Helicopter Company in Bien Hoa. After the war, the helicopter flew for a time with the Army's 10th Mountain Division and later with the New Jersey Army National Guard. The aircraft has been retired for more than 20 years and had been on display at Joint Training and Training Development Center, NJARNG, on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Soldiers transported the aircraft from JBMDL to a hanger at Monmouth Executive Airport in Wall Township where the restoration will take place.

Bill Linderman, executive director of the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, said his organization's effort to obtain a helicopter to restore began more than two years ago and began to bear fruit when he met Jorge Martinez, a retired New Jersey Army National Guard colonel and former state aviation director. New Jersey National Guard leaders, including Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, assisted the organization in obtaining the necessary Department of Defense approvals to allow the aircraft to be restored and displayed.

"This helicopter is the real deal," Linderman said. "A lot of people worked with us to make today possible."

As they awaited the helicopter's arrival, Burns



New Jersey National Guard Soldiers closely monitor the movement of a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter as it is lifted off of a flatbed at a hanger at Monmouth Executive Airport in Wall Township where it will be restored for display at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel.

and Gurbisz could barely contain their excitement.

"We've waited a long time for this opportunity," said Gurbisz, whose Vietnam tour ran from 1969 to 1970.

"I'm sure I'll get misty-eyed when she comes rolling in," said Burns, who served from 1965 to 1966. And when the Huey arrived, Burns was.

"It's a beautiful thing to see," he said.

The pair will be leading a group of more than a dozen former pilots, door gunners and crew chiefs for the restoration effort. The Foundation will launch a fundraising effort once it's determined how much the restoration will cost.

Linderman said the ultimate goal is to have the Huey in place in front of the Memorial in time for its 15 year anniversary on Sept. 27.

"If we're able to meet that goal, it will be a beautiful thing," he said. "We hope all the many people from the New Jersey National Guard who had a hand in this are there to join us." 🙏

*"I'm sure I'll get misty-eyed when she comes rolling in."*

Carl W. Burns  
Vietnam helicopter pilot

# Vets Haven to deli owner

By Spc. Devon Bistarkey, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**When Hurricane Sandy struck, Navy veteran Troy Cox found himself out of a job and homeless.**

After serving 20 years and finishing his last tour of duty in Iraq in 2007, Cox was faced with the biggest challenge of his life when he lost his job and residence in Seaside Heights.

With nowhere to go, Cox found himself at the place that has returned approximately 1,000 New Jersey veterans to productive lives – Veterans Haven.

The transitional housing program run by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs puts its residents on a path to self-sufficiency following a formula of job training and life-skills building. The program originated more than a decade ago with one facility in Winslow Township, Gloucester County and expanded last year to a second location in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County.

In many cases, veterans emerge from the program with newly-acquired life skills and having kicked alcohol or drug dependency.

In Cox's case, the program gave him a home base and an opportunity to regroup. But for Cox and most other Veterans Haven residents, the most powerful weapon they have is their own ambition.

A few months ago, Cox bought a shuttered building in Clinton, N.J., and turned it into the Olde Towne Deli & Bagel House. He opened and the place is doing brisk business.

"This all started with nothing but a dream," Cox said recently as he handled the busy Saturday lunch rush.

It may have been Cox's dream, but other veterans have joined him on this journey. A team of fellow Veterans Haven North residents helped with the renovation of the eatery and are now serving customers.



*Navy veteran Troy Cox, owner of Olde Towne Deli and Bagel House proudly displays his wears. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Addison/Released)*

***“Being veterans, we dust our knees off and we get up and we go. That’s what we do.”***

**TROY COX,  
OWNER OLDE  
TOWNE DELI &  
BAGEL HOUSE**

"They put their faith in me," said Cox.

Cox said the transition to running a bagel and deli shop came naturally. He grew up working at his family's diner in Indiana.

When asked, Why bagels? Cox's answer is simple, "Why not?"

The focus of his work is equally simplistic. Work hard and give back. His fellow veterans at the shop follow the same credo.

"Being veterans, we dust our knees off and we get up and we go," he said. "That's what we do."

The bagel shop itself remains a work in progress. It's nestled between a florist and a bookstore and still has no sign out front. Even so, the store continues to draw a steady stream of customers through word of mouth and what Cox describes as the best sandwiches in town.

Cox serves patrons without identifying himself or his employees as veterans living in transitional housing.

"I don't want them to feel like they're out of place because they're in a shelter," he said. "They should feel like heroes, because that's what they are."

When asked what the future holds, his answer is simple: "More."

The next challenge for Cox includes plans to expand and focus on giving back to Veterans Haven for the doors it opened for him.

"I am happy to be able to give back," he said. "They've given to me and I'm giving back." 🍩



# COUPLES LUNCHEON HELD FOR MENLO RESIDENTS

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The non-alcoholic champagne was poured and “Sweet Caroline” played in the background while several veterans looked lovingly into their spouse’s eyes. Memories of their loving relationship swirled in their heads as they gazed at each other, smiled and shared a meal.

Now running on its 11th year, the “Couples Luncheon” at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park provided the opportunity for residents of the Home to enjoy an intimate

meal with their spouse June 4, said Christine A. Caratozzolo, supervisor of recreations at the Home.

The luncheon, which was catered by Brunswick Memorial Home and entertainment provided by Lou B., hosted approximately 50 couples for dining and dancing at the Home’s Towne Square. In addition, each couple was provided with a personally-framed formal photograph as a keepsake.

For one couple, the event was a new experience. Michael Drahl, a for-

mer engineer and an Army veteran, was pleasantly surprised when he received the invitation. Having just moved into the Home in October, Drahl said he and his wife, Maria, were very appreciative of the opportunity to spend time together. The Belvidere couple have been married for 34 years and raised two children.

For other couples, the opportunity to spend time with their spouse was even more special as they also celebrated their wedding anniversary during the month of June.

Elmer Buckley, a World War II Navy veteran, and his wife, Ora, celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary June 23. The couple, married since 1947, raised four children and have 10 grandchildren and four great-granddaughters.

Dennis Castelli, a U.S. Army veteran, celebrated his 23rd wedding anniversary June 2. Castelli and his wife, Rosemary, have two children and three grandchildren.

So as their meal was being served and the music played, the couples enjoyed their time together and danced to the tunes of “YMCA”. 🎵



## Guard helps homeless vets

New Jersey National Guard Soldiers serve a hot lunch to homeless veterans at the Northern New Jersey Stand Down Oct. 13, 2012. The NJNG, along with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and various veteran service organizations sponsored the outreach event at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center in Newark, N.J. Photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



# From war-zone to workplace

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The ability to get the job done is a thread that runs through most people who have served in the military. It begins at basic training when recruits are forced to perform under pressure. It continues in training when service members are bombarded with information they must synthesize and use effectively.

These critical thinking and problem solving skills then grow over a military career. A young Airman, Marine, Sailor or Soldier may find himself or herself in charge of millions of dollars of equipment or responsible for maintaining sophisticated weapons systems.

These skills then get put to the ultimate test in places where some decisions are truly a matter of life and death.

When these people leave active duty, or return from a National Guard or Reserve deployment, they face a tough economy and tight job market.

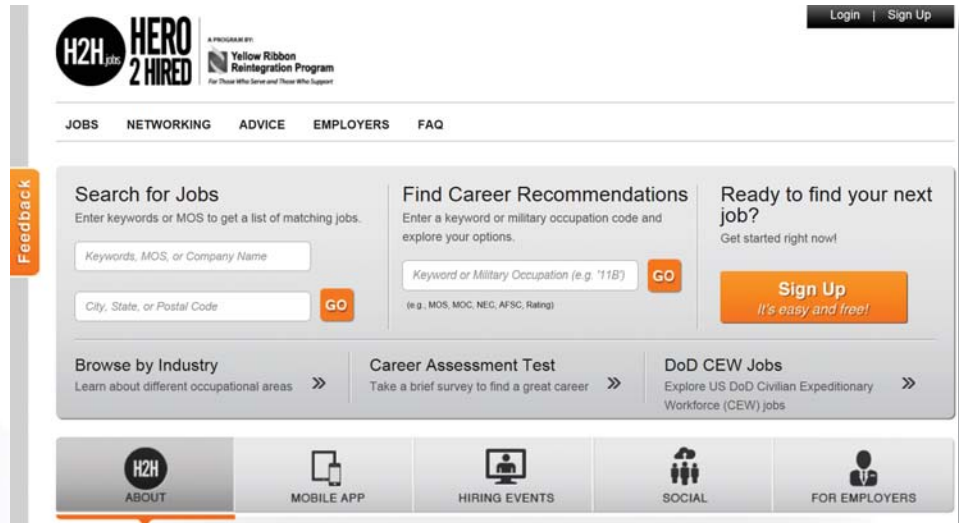
There are about 2.5 million veterans of the post-9/11 era -- and an additional 200,000 men and women are expected to leave military service this year. Nationally, the unemployment rate for these Veterans under age 24 is 30 percent and it is 13 percent for veterans between the ages of 25 and 34.

New Jersey's numbers are better than the national average. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development puts the state's veterans' unemployment rate at about eight percent.

It's still too high.

That's why the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is working with other state and federal agencies, including Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, to find more ways to match veterans with quality employers.

The most comprehensive effort in this area is Hero2Hired, an ESGR program that helps Reserve Component members explore careers, find military-friendly companies and enhance their marketability by showing prospective employers how skills they learned in



Hero 2 Hired homepage provides veterans looking for a job or a new career a place to start.

the military can benefit their company.

One of the most helpful features of the Hero2Hired Website, <https://h2h.jobs/>, is a job search engine that allows users to search for civilian jobs by inputting their military occupational skills identifier.

At a job fair in March hosted by the New Jersey Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, prospective employers got to meet people like Staff Sgt. Marcellus Wilson, who had just finished a 10-year career as a full-time Army National Guard logistician. He honed those skills during his military service in New Jersey -- and under the stress of two combat deployments. Wilson has a passion for supply-chain management. "If you love what you do, you don't consider it a job," he says. He left the fair with a half dozen interviews lined up.

A few weeks later, the Christie Administration and Prudential teamed up for a symposium to help employers learn how to add more veterans to their pools of job candidates.

More than three dozen employers came to the event and they included representatives from some of the state's biggest employers on down to people like Jo Ann Marianne, the chief operat-

ing officer of the Ironbound Community Corporation, a non-profit in Newark's Ironbound section. Marianne, who spent most of her career in corporate America in jobs related to the defense industry, was there because she wants to hire veterans because she knows they make good employees. But she needed tips on the best ways to find them without a large human resources department.

She came to the right place. Prudential has been repeatedly recognized as one of America's most veteran-friendly corporations. They earned this distinction by hiring an entire team of retired veterans whose only job is to make sure the company is looking to find the best potential employees the military has to offer -- and then making sure they get the support they need to succeed once they're hired.

Their service does not automatically entitle them to a job. But they do deserve every opportunity to have a full evaluation of their talents and their character by as many prospective employers as possible.

Most employers who take a look at these young men and women will conclude that hiring a veteran is not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. 🇺🇸

# WEDDING VOWS RENEWED

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Dressed in his dark suit and looking into his wife's eyes, Raymond Governale said, "I do!" when Rev. Jan W Koczera asked him if he would continue to have Barbara as his wife and continue to live in this marriage?

And with those words, Raymond, on his 10th wedding anniversary renewed his wedding vows to his wife at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, Feb. 23.

Surrounded by family and friends, the couple celebrated their anniversary and their wedding vows renewal.

"We met more than 40 years ago," said Raymond, a World War II Navy veteran. "When my first wife passed away, we reunited and got married."

Barbara said that they met 46-years ago at an Italian restaurant. "He came to my table and told me he was going to play a song in the jukebox for me."

"I'll Take Care of Your Cares" became their wedding song when they married ten years ago. And as they renewed their vows and exchanged wedding rings, they again promised to take care of each other.



You may kiss the bride: Raymond Governale, left, kisses his wife Barbara after renewing their wedding vows at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, Feb. 23, 2013.

## Award recipients the 'Greatest Generation'


By Elizabeth Schofield, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs schedules monthly state medal award ceremonies throughout all counties in New Jersey.

The award recipients served in a variety of combat conflicts ranging from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the current theatres of operation. During the course of a year, NJDMAVA awards more than 1,500 state medals to our New Jersey Veterans and it truly is a privilege and an honor to shake their hands.

While each of these ordinary men and women braved an extraordinary journey to receive these state awards, none are more proud than our World War II Veterans. They may walk slower, ask you to speak a little louder and stand a bit smaller, but when called to "salute" their sense of pride, commitment and accomplishment never fades.

Andrew Kmosko Jr. shared this photograph of his father, Technician Third Class Andrew J. Kmosko Sr. at his home in Ship Bottom with his New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. At age 94, Kmosko represents the greatest generation.

On behalf of the Department, we would like to thank Mr. Kmosko and his World War II colleagues for their service to our Nation and State. As Tom Brokaw said: "They won the war; they saved the world." 



Andrew J. Kmosko Sr. at his home in Ship Bottom with his New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. Photo by Andrew Kmosko Jr.

# Svehla honored at AC ceremony

Story and photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Alongside the names of Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Edward C. Benfold, Sgt. 1st Class Nelson V. Brittin, Pvt. Hector A. Cafferata, Jr. and 1st Lt. Samuel S. Coursen, a new name has been added to the list.

Pfc. Henry Svehla.

His portrait has joined the other four New Jersey Medal of Honor recipients on a bronze relief sculpture that stands opposite the wall that lists all the New Jerseyans who died during the Korean War.

The road to awarding the medal was a long one. Nephew Anthony Svehla began doing research on the internet which led him to get in contact with Rep. William James "Bill" Pascrell, Jr. (D- 9th dist.) in 2001 to begin working on the award.

Born in Newark, Svehla grew up in Belleville and enlisted in the Army in November 1951 where he served as a rifleman.

Virtually no documentation existed of the details surrounding Svehla's death, which meant finding and interviewing people who were there. Anthony began by tracking down people in his uncle's unit - the 7th Infantry Division. Eventually, he was able to get in touch with Soldiers who had been in the same battalion and company who were there the day Henry Svehla was killed.

After ten years of submitting records, Anthony received a call from the Pentagon saying that his uncle would be awarded the Medal of Honor.

President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to the family on May 2, 2011. During the ceremony, Obama stated: "He was there for America, in Korea."

The citation, which accompanies the award, finally sheds light on Svehla's courage and death.

"On the afternoon of June 12, 1952, while Svehla and his platoon were patrolling a strategic hill to determine enemy strength and positions, they were subjected to intense enemy automatic



Members of the Svehla family view a bronze relief sculpture that includes the fifth Medal of Honor recipient from New Jersey, Pfc. Henry Svehla, which was unveiled at the state's New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J., July 12, 2013.

weapons and small arms fire at the top of the hill. Coming under heavy fire, the platoon's attack began to falter. Realizing the success of mission and the safety of the remaining troops were in peril, Svehla leapt to his feet and charged the enemy positions, firing his weapon and throwing grenades as he advanced. In the face of this courage and determination, the platoon rallied to attack with renewed vigor. Svehla, utterly disregarding his own safety, destroyed enemy positions and inflicted heavy casualties, when suddenly, fragments from a mortar round exploding nearby seriously wounded him in the face.

Despite his wounds, Svehla refused medical treatment and continued to lead the attack. When an enemy grenade landed among a group of his comrades, Svehla, without hesitation and undoubtedly aware of extreme danger, threw himself upon the grenade. During this action, Svehla was mortally wounded."

His body was never recovered.

During the Korean War, 137 Medals of Honor were presented, 98 posthumously. Of the five New Jersey recipients, Benfold, Brittin, Coursen and Svehla died in action. 🇺🇸



In 1953, a comic book was written illustrating Pfc. Svehla's actions. The story was titled "Gave his life to save lives". (Image courtesy The Pentagon Channel Blog)

# CARLINI RETIRES

By Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

**When Frank Carlini took over the job as NJDMAVA's Director of Healthcare Services eight years ago, he knew he'd have no trouble managing, or leading.**

He'd spent a year commanding an Army infantry platoon in Vietnam and nearly two decades in key leadership positions in the New Jersey Army National Guard, retiring in 2004 as a brigadier general.

"But I was an infantry guy and this was healthcare," Carlini said with a chuckle. "I learned a lot and it's a testament to an amazing staff. They taught me the trade with great forbearance and a sense of humor."

After eight years on the job, Carlini retired April 1 from the position overseeing the department's three Veterans Memorial Homes.

"It was a good eight years," Carlini said. "With the hard work of the staff, we've been able to accomplish a lot."

The list of improvements to the homes and their operations during Carlini's tenure is long indeed.

A new home was constructed in Vineland, the long-awaited multi-purpose room and ventilation system was completed in Paramus and all of the homes consistently received high ratings for resident care.

But Carlini said some of the biggest changes at the homes were transparent to a casual observer.

During Carlini's tenure, operations procedures for the homes were standardized, the application process was streamlined and the work to digitize all medical records was begun.

Carlini and his team also logged countless hours to establish evacuation procedures that involved cooperation between local, county officials and plans to temporarily shelter residents at National Guard armories in the event of a disaster.

Carlini said he's most proud that during his tenure, the high quality of care in the homes has been maintained.



Retired Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini, Director of Healthcare Services honors New Jersey's fallen service members at the State Memorial Day ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover Township, N.J. May 26, 2012. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

"You go to other facilities, you see people in wheelchairs sitting in hallways," he said. "That doesn't happen at our homes. There are activities for the residents and that's because of our staff – and an amazing volunteer network."

At 66, Carlini has no firm plans for what he'll do next beyond relaxing and enjoying his grandchildren.

"The biggest things I will miss are the people and just the great atmosphere that exists here at DMAVA," he said. "When a problem comes up, people get together and figure out how to fix it."

If there is one day Carlini's absence will be most conspicuous, it will be Wassailing Day, an event where his leading the DMAVA staff in the singing of the "Hippopotamus Song" has become tradition. No worries. He's passed the mantle on to Ernie Razanno, the Division of Healthcare Services recruiter. 🇺🇸

## FERRARI TO SERVE AS DHS

By Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



**Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari was selected as Director of Veteran Health Services to replace retired Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini.**

Ferrari currently is the deputy commanding general – support, 42nd Infantry Division. He served as the commander of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008-2009.

Ferrari was born in Camden, N.J. He joined the NJARNG in January 1981 as a fire direction specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion 112th Field Artillery, Cherry Hill, and completed basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Sill, Okla., in July 1981. He received his commission through the Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., in March 1982. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on May 29, 2012. 🇺🇸

# American Legion project expanded into a fleet

By Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

In late July, Gene O'Grady got to see and hear how his yearlong project was helping the residents of Veterans Haven South in Winslow Township. "It was an incredible feeling," said O'Grady.

On that day, the American Legion state commander for 2012-2013 watched as the white Dodge minivan made multiple trips, transporting residents to the Veterans Administration hospital in Philadelphia and to the jobs which help these former homeless veterans return to a normal life.

After ascending to the state commander's position in June 2012, O'Grady met with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) leadership, to see if there were any unmet needs that would be a candidate for a commander's project.

O'Grady decided to take on the challenge of replacing the older vehicles at the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner and Veterans Haven South.

"Providing residents of these facilities the opportunity to attend



Gene O'Grady, American Legion state commander for 2012-2013, second from left, is surrounded by representatives receiving the three vehicles as part of O'Grady's state commander's project. Accepting the keys are Sean Van Lew, Veterans Haven North superintendent; Boris Reissek, Vineland Veterans Memorial Home CEO and Walter Nall, Veterans Haven South superintendent. Photo by Dyana Williams, American Legion

outside organizational sponsored activities, special events and appointments in a new and safer vehicle is paramount to their well-being," said O'Grady.

The Gene Team as he likes to call the 60,000 plus American Legion members raised more than \$137,000

to make the team's dream a reality. The pair of vans and a handicapped accessible bus would be called "Gene's Machines" as the project got rolling.

O'Grady was concerned that Hurricane Sandy might be a fund raising bump in the road, but the Legionaries rallied to get the project completed.

"Everybody has been so enthusiastic about the project from the donors to the recipients," said O'Grady.

"We were able to give the facilities the vehicles they needed," added O'Grady. The vans for Vets Haven North and South were different based on the needs of the veterans at those facilities.

"It was great to have all the Legionaries see what we did," said O'Grady as the keys to the vehicles were presented to NJDMAVA at the state convention in Wildwood. 🇺🇸



Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

# Fully Developed Claims offers faster decisions for VA disability

By Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

**The federal Veterans Administration (VA) will use the ‘carrot and stick’ approach to nudge disability applicants to file complete claims electronically. The carrot is faster processing and up to a year of retroactive benefits, while the stick is 180 degrees in the other direction.**

Veterans filing a Fully Developed Claim (FDC) for service-connected disability compensation could get up to one-year of retroactive benefits. The push for electronic filing of FDC’s is part of the VA’s goal to digital conversion of records by the end of 2015.

“If you can send in a claim with all the documentation so they (VA) doesn’t have to get anything, it will speed up the process by probably more than a couple of months,” said Chris Wambach, Supervisor of North Jersey Veteran Service Officers, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA).

The move is making veteran service officers like Wambach rethink the claims process. “The idea before was to establish the month of eligibility so we could get the payment as early as possible and to get the veteran as much money as possible.”

“By us delaying a month or two and sending the claim in it’s entirely right off the bat, we are doing the veteran a service because we are getting them extra money,” said Wambach.

The extra upfront effort pays dividends in speed according to the VA. The agency states that because Fully Developed Claims require all supporting evidence in a veterans possession, the adjudicator can begin the review without running down paperwork, which was often the longest part of the claims process.

Often, this is documentation that VA legally must attempt to collect, which is already in the veteran’s possession, or is evidence the veteran could easily obtain, like private treatment records, tests and diagnosis from doctors and specialists.

The VA will still make efforts to obtain federal records on the veteran’s behalf. The submittal of non-federal records and any federal records the veteran may have, allows the VA to get to a decision typically in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

“Now I would say hold on a second, what can you get from your doctor and how soon could you get. Make sure there is a diagnosis along with a month and year of diagnosis so we establish it prior to coming into the office,” noted Wambach.

While a veteran can submit a paper or electronic FDC on their own, applicants can benefit from the expertise of a veterans service officer (VSO).

“The VA always wants a VSO involved because in-

evitably the veteran will make a mistake or two causing it to fall back into the regular claims processing,” Wambach said. “VSO’s make sure all the i’s are dotted and the t’s are crossed.”

All 16 NJDMAVA veteran service offices will receive equipment to scan paperwork for veterans for the FDC electronic submission process.

Whether it is a NJDMAVA VSO or a volunteer from a veteran service organization, the assistance in filing a fully developed claim is part of a large consortium called the Community of Practice, which was established in May. Recently the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs joined the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans, who are charter members of the Community of Practice. 🇺🇸

## Riders send off for troops



*American Legion Riders from South Jersey wave to the bus carrying more than 100 Citizen-Soldiers into Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst to start an Operation Enduring Freedom deployment to Afghanistan. The veteran riders escorted the New Jersey Army National Guard unit from their home armory in Hammonton August 11. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)*

# VETERANS HAVEN CELEBRATES FLAG DAY WITH HELP FROM FRIENDS

By Gladys Krasicki, Veterans Haven vocational counselor

Markus Kimmelmeier, a political science professor at the University of Nevada, once wrote, "In the United States, the act of displaying the flag is readily recognized as a statement affirming one's allegiance to America and the American people. As such (an act), the flag is of critical importance to the maintenance and reproduction of American identity as it connects Americans to their nation by reminding them what the United States stands for."

That, my friends, is what Flag Day is all about, Americans taking a day during National Flag Week to express their loyalty to the ideals by which this nation was founded.

As a United States Army veteran who served 10 years and deployed three times overseas, I will be the first to admit that many of us take more than just a day to express our loyalty. Rather than just being quick to salute to the flag, we carry it in our hearts and in our minds. We remember our fallen comrades who served this nation proudly so that the American people could live in a free nation. For many of us who survived the struggle and won the war abroad, we came home continuing to battle the wars in our minds.

Therefore, this Flag Day was unique for all the veterans currently residing at Veterans Haven in Winslow, N.J.

A Home Depot team of veterans and volunteers developed a list of the materials needed to update and repair Veterans Haven. To put it simply: Home Depot came to fix our house. As if that was not enough, they also brought home cooked meals, their hearts and smiles and gave gladly of their time to take notice of the many



veterans that reside here.

"Simple, yet sweet," said Veterans Haven resident Laura. "Oh my goodness, the food was delicious."

"The music was playing and they barbecued on the donated grills," said Avis, another resident. We had a good time eating and enjoying their company."

As I walked down the hallways and saw the older side of the building getting renovated, Gus smiled and asked, "So, how do you think it's coming along?" which I responded with, "to be honest, it's coming along quite excellent."

When the American poet Howard Schnauber wrote My Name is Old Glory, "When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer." He echoed what was happening at Veterans Haven.

These home improvement projects, a little color here or there, and even that feeling of being at home makes a person lift their heads up with dignity and pride. Consequently, our family at Veterans Haven would like to express our sincere gratitude to Home Depot for their patronage and sense of national pride. 🇺🇸



## VINELAND GETS MOVIE THEATER

The Stars and Stripes movie theater at the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland was dedicated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2012. This marks the completion of a project started in 2009 by then New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars state commander Jack Shiverdaker. The project, which cost \$76,500, encompasses a 92-inch high-definition television, a Dolby sound system and 16 movie theater rumble seats with room for wheelchairs. And yes, there is a popcorn machine in the lobby. The room is also used as a multi sensory location where sensory stimulation and specialized lighting is provided to individuals with dementia. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



# Volunteers are the heart of homes

By Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Volunteers of the Paramus Veterans Memorial Homes were called the difference in making veterans lives better during the annual volunteer breakfast held at the Holiday Inn in Hasbrouck Heights on April 25.

"The difference is you," said Steven Ferrari, Director of Veterans Health Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

"In order to lift yourself up, sometimes you need to lift someone else up," added Ferrari as spoke about the selfless service of the volunteers.

Individuals and organizations donated 22,045 hours saving the state more than a half-million dollars in man-hours.

Volunteers conducted 276 bingo games at the Paramus home in 2012 with residents winning more than \$82,000 in prizes. "No wonder our residents love bingo," noted Giulia Kirsch, Supervisor of Recreation, Paramus Veterans Memorial Home.

Kirsch added that there are 214 individuals and 225 supporting organizations that volunteer at the home. Besides the usual support to the Home's activity department volunteers can be found assisting in physical therapy, social service or providing clerical support.

In 2012, nearly \$98,000 in contributions provided music and other entertainment enhancements to bring joy to the veterans according to Kirsch. The list of items provided range from phone cards, large numbered clocks and tickets for local sporting events; to simpler gestures like holiday cards or platters of cookies, cakes and candy. A total of 42 DVD/19" TV combo and 37 electric wheelchairs or motorized scooters are some of the big ticket items donated to the home last year.

Both Menlo Park and Vineland homes also held recognition events for each facility's volunteers. Adding the 23,000 hours in Menlo and 25,250 hours for Vineland to the Paramus numbers, it is huge financial benefit to the



Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were among the various groups and individuals who were honored at the volunteer breakfast April 25, 2013, by the Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

veterans. A total of \$1.8 million worth of time was provided through the year.

Vineland led the trio in donations of money and goods with \$236,000 for a total of \$412,500 for all three homes. 🇺🇸



Representatives from the Marine Corps League and the American Legion along with other veteran organizations, groups and individuals who volunteer at the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland were honored at a luncheon April 24, 2013. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

# Widow's claim approved years after husband's passing

By William J. McDonnell, Veterans Service Officer

It was a casual conversation during an intermission of a show at the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia that five years later ended with compensation a veteran's widow never expected.

In April of 2008, my wife and I were at a show speaking with a woman sitting next to us. She said that she traveled from Vineland for the show. I mentioned to her my former position at the state veterans office in her city.

The woman proceeded to tell me that her husband was a veteran and that she had applied for widow benefits when her husband passed away in 2005. In fact, after the veteran died, she filed a claim with the Veterans Administration (VA) seeking service connected death benefits. Her claim that the skin cancer was service connected was quickly denied because the VA was under the impression that the skin cancer was caused by Agent Orange.

The widow then told me that her husband was a career Air Force man. He served on active duty from 1954 to 1974. The widow was hesitant to revisit the claim, even though she knew her husband was treated for skin cancer during his 20 year military career. Her impression was the VA decision of 2005 was final.

Two months later, I saw the woman again at the theater and again mentioned we should reopen the claim for service connected death benefits. She reluctantly agreed. On June 25, 2008, I sent a VA Form 4138 to the Philadelphia Regional office requesting the claim be reopened based on "new evidence".

I contacted the widow and told her to gather the names of all doctors that treated her husband for skin cancer. We sent a VA Form 4142 to request to release medical information to VA to each of those medical facilities.

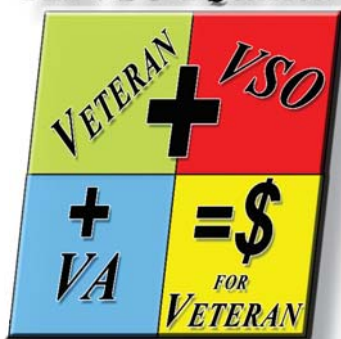
In total, we sent 33 records requests to VA asking them to contact each physician involved in the treatment of the veteran's skin cancer.

Almost a year later, in May 2009, the widow called me and said that VA had again denied the claim.

This time we wrote a "Notice of Disagreement" to VA and clearly explained to VA that "we were not claiming that the skin cancer was caused by Agent Orange." We were claiming that the skin cancer was "caused by excessive sun exposure on the flight line over a twenty year military career."

As evidence we sent a medical study from Scientific American Journal entitled, "Sunlight & Skin Cancer." The

## THE VSO EQUATION



study discussed how prolonged sun exposure early in life can cause skin cancer at a later age, much like a "delayed reaction." We told the widow that she should request a professional medical opinion from various dermatologists and surgeons.

I wondered if any of the doctors would opine that the "skin cancer was, more likely than not, caused by excessive sun exposure" during military service? In March of 2009, one of the surgeons did write a medical opinion stating that he believed the skin cancer originated during military service. That opinion quickly went out to the VA.

In October 2010, almost 18 months after we submitted the Notice of Disagreement, the VA, on appeal, had ruled in favor of the widow. The widow was stunned and grateful.

The widow was granted death benefits of approximately \$1,200 per month, CHAMPVA (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs) health care, education benefits and back dated compensation check of more than \$30,000. 📄



## On Remembrance Day

Brig. Gen. James Grant, Director of the Joint Staff, New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, left, presents the New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal along with service medals for Korea and Vietnam to Marianne Clark on Remembrance Day May 7, 2013. One year ago Clark's husband Sgt. 1st Class Dwight Clark passed away, making the presentation of the medals even more important to the widow. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

# NJDMAVA OUTREACH SCHEDULE

## Sept. \*7 New Jersey World War II Memorial

The ceremony will honor World War II veterans on the 68th anniversary of V-J Day.

New Jersey World War II Memorial 11 a.m.

\*DMAVA medal ceremony to be part of the program

125 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

## Sept. 12 “Hiring Our Heroes” – Job Fair Lawrenceville

### Armory

GE employment workshop for job seekers 9-11 a.m.

Hiring Fair 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DMAVA will have a VSO present to help and assist any veteran.

Lawrenceville Armory, 151 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

## Sept. \*26 The “Music Pier” in Ocean City

DMAVA medal ceremony and veterans outreach event at 11 a.m.

DMAVA will have a VSO on hand from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. to assist any veteran.

The Ocean City Music Pier, Moorlyn Terrace at the Boardwalk, Ocean City, NJ 08226

## Oct. \*29, 30 & 31 Bergen Town Center Mall

Medal Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 29 in the Mall’s “Century 21 Court”

Kiosk hours 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily

1 Bergen Town Center, Paramus, NJ 07652

## Nov. 5 “Hiring Our Heroes” – Job Fair Morristown

### Armory

“Employment Workshop” for job seekers 9 – 11 a.m.

“Hiring Fair” 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

DMAVA will have a VSO present to help and assist any veteran.

Morristown Armory, 430 Western Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960



## Nov. 7 “Veterans Only” Job Fair

West Orange National Guard Armory

Outreach event only. DMAVA will have a VSO present to help and assist any veteran.

1299 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

## Nov. 7, 8 & 9 Morristown Armory

Veterans’ Hiring Fair – Information Fair

Stand Down for homeless veterans. DMAVA will have a VSO present to help and assist any veteran.

Morristown Armory, 430 Western Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960

*Photos by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

## STAYING AHEAD OF THE NEED AT DOYLE

By Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

**For Iven Dumas, a large part of his job is planning ahead to serve veterans. This forward thinking keeps the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in front of needs for years to come.**

“If you have less than four years of burial space, you should be working on a new project,” said Dumas, superintendent of the busiest state cemetery in the country.

The current construction of the Section Z crypt field and columbarium will add 10,700 double depth grave sites and 4,800 niches. The addition is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

This will plus up the 171,000 capacity that currently has 56,500 veterans and spouses interred. More than 3,000 interments have been recorded in each of the past two years. At this pace, this year is on track to surpass last year’s total.

“We try to keep in mind the more than 20,000 pre-registered,” added Dumas. Preregistration has been promoted to ease the burden on families when it is time to make final arrangements for a veteran.

The \$10.7 million Section Z project is the latest grant from the federal Veterans Administration to keep improving the cemetery. The VA recently approved a \$2,947,128 grant for a Public Information Center. Construction near the main entrance is expected to begin this fall.

The new building near the main entrance will provide a covered area for families to locate graves and easier coordination with funeral homes as they enter the grounds.

This building was first proposed back in 2002 and demonstrates how being prepared can have benefits.

“It has worked out good for us as we have plans for expansion and another state might not come through with their plan so the VA looks to whoever is ready,” said Dumas.


The Division of Veterans Services at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is hoping



another grant might get moved to the top of the list because other states are not prepared. This grant would realign grave markers and place new sod with an irrigation system in three older sections of the cemetery.

The new public committal shelter has been placed into recent use despite damage sustained from Hurricane Sandy. With repairs being made to the cemetery’s chapel, the new shelter was pressed into service.

Located near the Section Z construction, the shelter features the seven service seals on the rear wall of the open air structure.

“Everyone really likes the new committal shelter,” noted Dumas, who envisions that shelter being the primary area for services in the future. 

### CEMETERY RECEIVES \$10.7 MILLION CHECK

At the state Veterans Day ceremony, New Jersey Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, left, U.S. Rep. Jon Runyan, N.J. 3rd District; Brig. Gen. Michael C. Cunniff, The Adjutant General; Al Bucchi, Veterans Services director; Raymond Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, receive from Steve L. Muro, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, a symbolic \$10,796,649 check for the construction of Section Z crypt field and columbarium at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., Nov. 11, 2012. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



## Armistice observed

Members of various veterans organizations present wreaths in front of the wall listing all the New Jerseyans who died in the Korean War during the commemoration ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J. July 26, 2013. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



## The Eagle has landed

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, Ray Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and elected officials unveiled an American Eagle statue at the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Nov. 26, 2012. The statue, created by students of the Piscataway campus of the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School, is a thirteen, 12-foot wing-span statue named "Fierce Allegiance" faces the Veterans Home entrance. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez/Released)



## FRIDGES DONATED

The Veterans Support Organization, a national non-profit organization, donated 48 dormitory-style refrigerators to the Veterans Transitional Housing Program - Veterans Haven South located in Winslow Township Sept. 26, 2012. Veterans Haven is a facility for homeless veterans and is operated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and supported by the United States Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as a wide variety of service organizations, community agencies, veterans groups and private citizens. After being medically evaluated at a VA Medical Center, eligible veterans must agree to a long term program focusing on psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



## VETS VISIT RANGE

Senior Master Sgt. Michael D. Monteith, second from right, munitions maintenance chief, 177th Fighter Wing moves a Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland resident Sept. 19, 2012, when 177th and the 108th Wing Airmen hosted a barbeque for the Vineland residents at Warren Grove Range. Afterwards the veterans witnessed training as A-10 Thunderbolt IIs and F-16 Fighting Falcons strafed and dropped practice bombs at the range. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



## HONORING THE FALLEN

Rep. Jon Runyon (R-3rd Dist.), Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General, Raymond Zawacki, deputy director for Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; senior military and more than a dozen veterans' organizations paid tribute our nations fallen service members at the State Memorial Day Ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Arnetown, N.J., May 25, 2013. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



## COUPLES RENEW VOWS

Mr. and Mrs. Eusebio Trevino were among eighteen couples at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland who renewed their wedding vows July 26, 2012. The 18 couples have been married for a combined total of 1,045 years. Photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

# "SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED"

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

### **ASBURY PARK 07712**

630 BANGS AVE., SUITE 320  
732-775-7009/7005

### **ATLANTIC CITY 08401**

1008 ABSECON BLVD.  
609-441-3060/3061

### **BRICK 08724**

970 ROUTE 70  
732-840-3033/3034

### **DOVER 07801**

479 WEST CLINTON ST.  
973-366-0245/8347

### **HACKENSACK 07601**

125 STATE ST., SUITE 109  
201-996-8050/8051

### **JERSEY CITY 07306**

678 MONTGOMERY ST.  
201-536-3401/3402/3403

### **MT. HOLLY 08060**

555 HIGH ST., SUITE 6A  
609-518-2273/2274

### **NEWARK 07102**

20 WASHINGTON PLACE, Rm. 431  
973-297-3336

### **NEWARK 07102 (VA REGIONAL OFFICE)**

20 WASHINGTON PLACE  
973-297-3230

### **PORT MURRAY 07865**

550 ROUTE 57  
908-689-5840/5845

### **SOMERSET 08873**

1060 HAMILTON ST.  
732-937-6347/6348

### **LAWRENCEVILLE 08648**

151 EGGERT CROSSING RD., Rm. 136  
609-671-6697/6696

### **VINELAND 08360**

524 NORTHWEST BLVD.  
856-405-4388/4389/4390

### **WOODBURY 08096**

658 NORTH EVERGREEN AVE.  
856-853-4184/4185/4186

### **PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144**

5000 WISSAHICKON AVE.  
215-381-3033

For information on your Veteran entitlements call toll-free  
1-888-8NJ-VETS, or go online to:

[www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html)