

DMAVA Highlights

March 18, 2010 Volume 12 Number 09



Jersey honor guard helps to pay tribute to veterans who gave twice



Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Denson (left) presents an American flag to Donna Thomas, whose husband, Navy veteran Stephen J. Thomas, donated his body to the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School for use by anatomy students. Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Office.

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

Stephen J. Thomas had enough adventures to fill a long life – and several more.

He joined the Navy during World War II and served as a commando in the elite Scouts and Raiders, a forerunner the SEALs. Af-

ter the fighting ended, he came home to New Jersey and made his living as a lobsterman, braving countless storms on the open sea.

When he died on July 3, 2009, at the age of 77, his family followed through on request to donate his body to the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School to help students study anatomy. His wife, Donna Thomas, said he joked that it would give him time on a college campus, one of the few adventures he'd missed.

"He joked he wanted to party with the students," Donna Thomas said recently. "He's doing that – and helping them become good doctors someday."

Stephen Thomas was among 17 veterans honored Tuesday night by the medical school at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey. The New Jersey Army National Guard honor guard took part in the ceremony and presented flags and certificates to the families. Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Denson, the honor guard's assistant state coordinator, said the veterans continued their selfless service by donating their bodies to science.

Dr. George Mulheron, the director of the gross and developmental anatomy course, said the veterans had made a direct contribution to science and one that will someday help heal the sick.

"These veterans really served twice," Mulheron said. "Their service is nothing short of inspiring."

Kenneth H. Weber, an Army Air Corps glider pilot in World War II, believed donating his body would be a way to continue to teach, a profession to which he dedicated his life after the war, teaching industrial arts at Bernardsville High School for decades.

"He doing this was just a marvelous idea," said his wife, Anna Weber.

Family farewells for 177th Airmen



Command Post Controller Staff Sgt. Justin Kelley, left, kisses his wife good-bye before deploying on March 15. Approximately 35 Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Military invited on field for Mets opening day

The NY Mets would like to invite veterans from all branches of services and eras to participate on their opening day, April 5, 11 a.m. sharp.

If you are interested in coming to the ball park (Citi Field 123-01 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing, NY 11368) and being on the field to be honored with other veterans, e-mail Tony at tantellas@wound-edwarriorproject.org with the following information: Name, e-mail, cell phone number, branch, date enlisted, Will you be in military uniform or veteran organization uniform (minimum is hat, jacket, etc.) and if you need a ticket for a guest.



Special note, the NY Mets will provide you with one additional free ticket for one guest.

You will receive a total of two free tickets – one for you and one for your guest. Your guest will not be able to be on the field. Dress attire is military uniform or uniform of veteran organization to which you belong. Transportation will not be provided to or from the game.

Please note there is a limited amount of tickets.

Photo information

If your armory needs photos for the Chain of Command "wall," contact Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison at barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us or call 609-530-7088. Tell us which photos you need and we will mail them to you or get them ready for pick-up.

.....

Officers and NCOs can now schedule their DA photo appointment online for the N.J. National Guard photo studio at Joint Force HQ, Fort Dix.

Just visit fill out a work order, DA 3903, online at www.vios.army.mil, but you must log in with your CAC card. For assistance or more information registering on VIOS, contact Staff Sgt. Jorge L. Vazquez, G6 Network Control Center at 609-562-0333.

The studio accepts appointments for any week day from 8-10 a.m. or anytime during JFHQ drill weekends. For more information on studio hours contact Kryn P. Westhoven at (609) 847-2215.

DMAVA Green

By Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

Not only have we turned the clocks forward, but the magic date is two days away. March 20 is the first day of SPRING!!! Flowers, green, birds and the awakening of the world starts again. It will be time to break out the gardening supplies, seeds, plant flowers and vegetables and bring color to our white world of winter.

We will soon be able to take advantage of living in an area where we can purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmer's markets, roadside stands or even pick our own. Click on this link to find the dates when fruits and vegetables will be ready for eating here in New Jersey: <http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh/search-es/availability.htm>.

If you are looking for local farmers markets, roadside stands, places and times to pick your own produce, recipes or places to take the family to tour an agriculture business, stop by <http://www.nj.gov/nj/things/farms/> for information.

Another option to eat greener is to become a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) member. In a CSA you buy shares from a farmer or a group of farmers, paying up front to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation. What you get back? A box of fresh produce every week. The box may be delivered to a pre-selected pick up point or you can pick it up at the farm.

To find out about CSAs that may be near you, visit Local Harvest at <http://www.localharvest.org/csa/> or Eat Well Guide at <http://www.eatwellguide.org/i.php?pd=Home>.

Eat Green, Keep Green!

Quotes

I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure - which is: Try to please everybody.

--Herbert B. Swope

There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something.

--Henry Ford Sr.

Misery loves company, but company does not reciprocate.

--Henry Ward Beecher

He must have had a magnificent build before his stomach went in for a career of its own.

--Margaret Halsey

Parents can give everything but common sense.

--Yiddish proverb

DMAVA Highlights is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard, Veterans Affairs or the state of New Jersey. Letters may be sent to: NJDMAVA, DMAVA Highlights, Public Affairs Office, PO Box 340, Trenton NJ 08625-0340. E-mail at pao@njdmava.state.nj.us.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth – The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs

Maj. Yvonne Mays – Public Affairs Officer

Tech. Sgt. Barb Harbison – Public Affairs Specialist

Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist

Wounded Soldier and Family
Hotline
1-800-984-8523

Families

Yellow Ribbon event held in AC for 1-150th on March 13



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, left, congratulates 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion E Company Commander 1st Lt. Tiffany Mohammed after presenting her the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration event held in Atlantic City on March 13, 2010. It was the first of three Yellow Ribbon re-integration events to help the Citizen Soldiers make the transition back to civilian life and learn about how their service in the combat zone has made them eligible for enhanced education, health and other benefits. The Yellow Ribbon program is an initiative sponsored by the Department of Defense and provides for three events within 90 days of the return of Soldiers from a combat deployment. The first event is to provide Soldiers with information on benefits. The second event focuses on their mental health and the final reintegration event is for a comprehensive health screening. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

Sign up the kids for tour of Battle Lab, March 28

The annual Youth Programs Battle Lab tour will be held March 28, 9:15 a.m.-noon for youth 10 years and older. The tour will take place at the Joint Training and Training Development Center (JT2DC), building 3601, on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The youth will be able to view and learn about various flags and countries, learn about military occupational specialties, weapons marksmanship, walk through desert night fighting lanes and work with the virtual combat convoy trainer.

Only 25 slots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Families are responsible for transportation. Parents may drop youth off or walk through with group. To register, please visit http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_events.html to download the Battle Lab Tour permission slip.

Deadline to register is March 24. Return the completed forms to Amanda Balas via e-mail/mail or fax them to 609-530-6871. For more information, contact Amanda at amanda.balas@us.army.mil or 609-530-6836.

Youth trip to Washington, DC planned for June 4-6

The NJNG Youth Programs will be taking up to 35 teens (ages 13-17) and 10 chaperones on a trip to Washington, DC, on June 4-6.

If you are interested in touring and enjoying the nation's capital, contact Amanda Balas at amanda.balas@us.army.mil or 609-530-6836.

There will be two pick up points in New Jersey before heading to Bolling Air Force Base, where the group will be staying. The agenda is not completely set, but on the possible list is visiting the National Mall area where the historical monuments and museums are located.



Guard Youth Camp July 11-17

Applications are now available for the 2010 New Jersey National Guard Youth Camp being held at Sea Girt, July 11-17. To download an application, go to: http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html or contact your nearest Family Assistance Center.

State Family Programs

101 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville
Toll-free number 1-888-859-0352
Family Assistance – 609-530-6834/6884
State Youth Coordinator – 609-530-6836
Military Family Life consultants – 609-530-6835/6886
Yellow Ribbon Program – 609-530-6846/6853/6859
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647; NJ 609-530-6867
Survivor Outreach Services – 609-530-6864
Fax – 609-530-6871

Military and family members health insurance questions should be directed to:

Tricare – Sgt. 1st Class Louis Tuck, 609-562-0865
US Family Health Plans – Pam Worley, 732-977-8531
VA Medical – Michelle Stefanelli, 973-676-1000, ext. 1727

Sports & More

State employees encouraged to get H1N1 flu shots; free clinics throughout the state until April 16

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has scheduled H1N1 flu vaccinations clinics for all state employees. The clinics are free of charge.

Employees need to make an appointment prior to the scheduled clinic day when they want to have their vaccination. Call the hotline at 1-866-321-9571 to make an appointment. Clinics are open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Location	City	Date
State Police Troop HQ	Hamilton	March 19
War Memorial	Trenton	March 22-24
DMAVA HQ	Lawrenceville	March 29-30
BPU Gateway Plaza	Newark	April 7-8
DMAVA	West Orange	April 12-13
Casino Control	Atlantic City	April 14-15
State Police Troop HQ	Buena	April 16

For those employees unable to attend a clinic but interested in a H1N1 flu shot; use the department's "Find a Flu Shot" locator at www.nj.gov/health or call the hotline.

Raising funds for a Red Oak tree

Five years ago a memorial was dedicated on the DMAVA campus to honor the four New Jersey Army Guardsmen who gave their lives during two days in June 2004 during their deployment to Iraq. This year plans are underway to plant a red oak tree, the state tree of New Jersey, by the memorial.

If you would like to make a donation to help purchase the tree, please send your checks, made payable to, "Family Readiness Council," to: Brig. Gen. (ret.) Frank R. Carlini
PO Box 340
Trenton NJ 08625-0340

Family Readiness Council hosting fundraiser March 25

The National Guard State Family Readiness Council (NGSFRF) is hosting a fundraiser at the Lawrenceville Armory on March 25 at 6 p.m. The emcee is Brian Thompson with entertainment featuring Joe Piscopo. Cocktails and dinner will be served.

The Family Readiness Council provides financial assistance to families and businesses of New Jersey National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen during and after overseas deployments. Grants awarded average \$50,000 monthly to N.J. Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen and their families. To date \$1.3 million in grants have been awarded.

The cost of the event is \$125. Please make your check payable to: National Guard State Family Readiness Council Celebration. All contributions to The National Guard State Family Readiness Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

If you would like to attend or make a donation to the Council, contact Nicole Davidman immediately at 908-447-0358 or nda-vidman@turnkeyproductions.net or visit www.nationalguardsfrf.org.

Tickets available for National Guard Day at Hershey Park

It's Hershey Park Day again for the National Guard! If you would like to take your family for the day, April 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., the cost is \$22 per person. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/hershey-national-guard-tickets>. The pass code is 29837. If you have any issues with the link, e-mail kmmameval@hersheypark.com.

Joint Base MDL holds military career expo March 23

You're invited to the McGuire Air Force Base Military Career Expo on March 23. Top companies such as Northrop Grumman, Mac Tools, Lockheed Martin, ManTech and more want your military experience. You must register to attend the expo; use this link: <http://www.military.com/career-expo/mcguire-afb-fort-dix-career-fair/?ESRC=careerexpo.se>

The job fair will be held at the McGuire Community Center, 2705 E. Arnold Avenue, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, March 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Meet with employers and educational institutions to learn ways to advance your career using your military benefits.

You must have a valid DoD ID or be sponsored by authorized personnel.

NJESGR held annual meeting at Menlo Park vets home March 9

From the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home

On March 9, the New Jersey ESGR Committee (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) held their annual meeting at the Menlo Park Veterans Home. Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO, extended a welcome to all members of the committee. During lunch Brandspiegel was presented with a New Jersey Above and Beyond Award plaque, "on behalf of the men and women of the New Jersey National Guard and Reserve Forces for his outstanding service and continuing support to the national defense of the United States of America." Later the group toured the facility.

Veterans & Military

Get ready to sign up for Army Ten Miler; opens April 1

Now is the time to lace up those running shoes and start practicing for the 26th annual Army Ten-Miler. The race, which will take place on Oct. 24, 2010, opens registration on April 1. The 2009 race sold out in six days, so if you want to participate, the organizers encourage you to register early. Drop by www.armytenmiler.com for information, registration and more.

If you have an artistic streak, the race has a T-shirt design contest with a \$4,300 prize package. Great prizes and the opportunity to see your art emblazoned across the chests of thousands of runners.

Proceeds from the Army Ten-Miler go to support Army Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

It is a great opportunity to see 30,000 people line up and run through the streets of our nation's capital.

Honor Guard program looking for members to serve

The New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard Program is looking for new members to serve at funerals of veterans around the state.

Retirees and active National Guard members of the Army and Air Guard can apply for the openings. Retirees with 20 years or more of service from any branch can also apply. The Honor Guard members are men and women, enlisted and officers.

All personnel must meet Army/Air Force height and weight standards of AR 600-9 and their appearance must meet AR 670-1 standards.

Current Guard members are paid one day's active duty pay, but no less than \$50 plus one retirement point for each day's work. Retirees receive \$50 per day.

Many days can find the Honor Guard with more than one mission; but each person registers for the time they are available. Most services take place within a 50 mile radius of their assigned Honor Guard Office; hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Some missions can be done in the evening hours. The Honor Guard provides services seven days a week, depending on the schedule of missions.

The N.J. National Guard Honor Guard Program provides services mostly for Army veterans but has worked at other branch's funerals.

There is an initial training period for all personnel. Everyone will be taught how to perform all assignments and phases of the ceremony. If someone has a special talent such as bugle playing for Taps, it is greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested must contact the program office at 609-530-7090. They will be referred to a local regional team leader to establish an appointment time and location for an interview or in the case of a bugle, an audition.



Additional phases identified for Iraq Campaign Medal

The Department of Defense announced today that additional campaign stars are authorized for wear on the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM).

The campaign stars recognize a service member's participation in DoD designated campaigns in Iraq.

Service members who have qualified for the ICM may display a bronze campaign star on their medal for each designated campaign phase in which they participated. The stars will be worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the campaign medal.

The additional campaign phases and associated dates established for the ICM are:

- Iraqi Surge – Jan. 10, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.
- Iraqi Sovereignty – Jan. 1, 2009 through a date to be determined.

Four other phases, previously identified, include:

- Liberation of Iraq – March 19, 2003 to May 1, 2003.
- Transition of Iraq – May 2, 2003 to June 28, 2004.
- Iraqi Governance – June 29, 2004 to Dec. 15, 2005.

The "National Resolution" phase, which began Dec. 16, 2005, has been determined to end Jan. 9, 2007.

Service members should contact their respective military departments for specific implementation guidance.

G.I. Go Fund job fair in Newark for veterans, family members

Veterans, active duty personnel and their families are invited to the Newark Veterans Job Fair hosted by the G.I. Go Fund and the City of Newark on March 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The fair will be held in the Essex Room, Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University, located at 350 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Newark. There is no cost for this event.

If you are a veteran and would like to attend this event, you are encouraged (but not required) to register online at <http://www.gigofund.org/veteransjobfairvets.html>

By registering, it ensures that you are notified for all future job fairs and events.

Bring lots of resumes.

For more information, call 973-802-1479 or e-mail manias@ci.newark.nj.us.

N.J. Warrant Officer Association looking for new members

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.



Calendar

Rod and Gun Club invites all to have a wild night

The Picatinny Rod and Gun Association invited one and all to their Annual Game Dinner on April 17 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. To reserve your place, call the ITR office at 973-724-4014/4186 no later than April 2. Payment can be made with Visa, MasterCard, cash or check.

What's for dinner? Appetizers are Venison meat balls in current/Dijon sauce, corned Canada goose Reubens, gray squirrel quesadillas, raccoon empanadas, cheeses/crackers and veggies/dip. The main course is mixed greens salad, venison vegetable soup, venison chili, pheasant a-la-shrooms, pheasant and broccoli over white rice, pheasant jambalaya, venison shepherd's pie, venison Stroganoff over egg noodles, venison Bourguignon, venison Milanese, leg of venison with horseradish sauce, venison meatloaf, baked trout, loin of tame boar, beaver barbeque, roast chicken rosemary, mixed veggies, garlic mashed potatoes, apple sauce and dessert. Beer, wine, soda and coffee are included.

Come have a wild night with us!

102d Regiment reunion being held March 27 in West Orange

The 102d Regimental Reunion, sponsored by The Essex Troop, has been rescheduled for March 27 at 2 p.m. at the West Orange armory. It is open to current and former members of the 1st or 2nd squadron, 102d Cavalry, 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 5th Tank Battalion or the 5-177th Cavalry.

Food and refreshments will be served compliments of the Essex Troop Association. Attendees are asked to bring along their memorabilia – pictures, dog tags, P38, etc – and meet with old friends to have a great afternoon of camaraderie and stories.

Call The Essex Troop office at 973-736-0952 to RSVP, or e-mail etroop@verizon.net.

Guard families holding Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run

The families of the four New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who were killed in Iraq in June 2004 are honoring the memory of their fallen heroes with the Band of Brothers Memorial Poker Run which will be held on June 6, 2010.

The families are asking for their friends' and communities help and support with the event. All donations – monetary or otherwise – will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged on the day of the event. All donations are tax deductible. Individuals or organizations donating \$1,000 or more will have their names listed on the Run T-shirt.

All profits will be divided among the Friends of Frank Carvill Foundation, the SGT Ryan E. Doltz Memorial Foundation and the Duffy and Timoteo families.

For more information visit www.RememberingRyan.org.

Dash on down to the Nutter Run in Sea Girt, May 22

Get those running shoes ready for the sixth annual SGT Nutter Run on May 22. The 5K run will be held at the National Guard Training Center, Sea Girt. Sign in is 8-9:30 a.m., race start is 10 a.m.

Cost to run is \$10 if enrolled in JROTC, \$15 if postmarked before May 1 and \$20 on the day of the event. Profits from the run go to benefits the lives of National Guard families in need. This year the benefits will go the Stadelman twins – children of 2nd Lt. John Stadelman, a New Jersey Army Guardsman who passed away on July 9, 2009.

For more information about the prizes, donations to be raffled, applications to participate in the run and more, visit www.Nutter-Run.org.

Travel show, book fair being held at Picatinny March 26

Come to the Cannon Gate Club, Picatinny Arsenal, wearing your green on March 17 for the St. Patrick's Day party. The buffet will include corned beef and cabbage, Finnan Haddie, Irish stew and Key Lime pie for dessert. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the cost is \$16 per person. Don Pierce will be on the keyboards for entertainment. Call 973-724-2582 for reservations.



Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

April 6*, 7, 8

Paramus Park Mall

*Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Deadline

Want to place an event or article in DMAVA Highlights?

Deadline for articles is noon Wednesday.

Send submissions to barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us.