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# DMAVA

# HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 17, 2012

# Hooah!



*Spc. Houdinis Trujillo recites the Soldier's Creed at a Yellow Banner Ceremony held at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst on Feb. 15 for the Army National Guard's 50th Finance Detachment. Soldiers from this unit will be deploying to Kosovo. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)*

## N.J. Vietnam Veteran's foundation to host benefit seminar in April

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation in conjunction with the Veterans Administration Health Care Community Outreach Team invites you to a FREE seminar on Saturday, April 14, at the Vietnam Era Museum and Education Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come to this informative event and learn about the VA health care system. At 10:15 a.m., there will be a 45-minute presentation regarding health care eligibility and benefits followed by a questions-and-answers session.

Any veteran that is currently enrolled and wants to learn more about their health care benefits is encouraged to attend, and also learn about non-health related benefits such as: home loans, life insurance, filing disability claims, and death and burial benefits.

Furthermore, a VA mobile health unit will be on site for any "eligible" veteran to receive a brief health care assessment, including blood pressure check and patient education. Any veteran seeking information about how to enroll in the VA health care system should bring their DD-214.

Attendees are asked to RSVP their attendance to 732-335-0033.

The Educational Center is located at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off Exit 116 in the Garden State Parkway.

## Discounted tickets to Rutgers game

Attention New Jersey veterans and military service members: Enjoy Rutgers University men and women's basketball games at discounted prices.

All 100 level tickets will be \$15 (normally \$35) and all general admission tickets will be \$5 (normally \$15) for the women's basketball game against Seton Hall on Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online by clicking on the below link: <https://ev12.venue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=rutgers&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR>

Type in the code "NJDMAVA" in the box and click the "go" button. You will be taken to a page where the tickets can be purchased at the discounted rate. Or you can call 866-445-GORU (4678). Offer is only good while tickets are available.

The game will be played at the Louis Brown Athletic Center, which is located at 83 Rockafeller Road in Piscataway.

**E-mail your Highlights submissions to [wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us) OR [armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us)**

## Division of Pensions and Benefits supports "America Saves Week"

It's no secret that this tough economy has Americans struggling to cope financially. That's why now is a critical time to reduce debt and save money for the future. And the ideal time to start is during **America Saves Week**, which runs from Feb. 19 to Feb. 26.

Spearheaded by the American Savings Education Council, America Saves Week is a nationwide event in which individuals are encouraged to take action to begin saving or to save more efficiently.

Similar to National Save for Retirement Week, this event is a

great opportunity for state employees to learn more about positive financial habits.

If your New Jersey State Employees Deferred Compensation Plan education consultant has not yet contacted you regarding this event, please reach out to your consultant to obtain materials and schedule seminars at your location.

Please join us in encouraging employee attendance at seminars during America Saves Week and/or one-on-one appointments with their education consultant.

Region	Education Consultant	Cell Phone	Email address
North Jersey	Rocco Attanasio	609-571-5532	rocco.attanasio@prudential.com
Statehouse/Mercer County	Michael McConnell	609-334-5202	michael.mcconnell@prudential.com
Central Jersey	Susan McAleavey	609-472-1634	susan.mcaleavey@prudential.com
South Jersey	Patricia Scherer	609-462-1239	patricia.scherer@prudential.com





Col. Daniel Dreher, left, receives the 57th Troop Command guidon from Command Sgt. Major Francis Sippel, right, during a change of command ceremony on Feb. 11. Dreher, who was promoted to begin the ceremony, replaces Col. Gerard Gagnon, who is taking over the National Guard Counter Drug Task Force. (Photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD)



Col. Robert J. Jarvis receives the guidon of the New Jersey National Guard Joint Training and Training Development Center from Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, the Acting Adjutant General, after assuming command of the high-tech training facility at a change of command ceremony on Feb. 12 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Jarvis, who was promoted to colonel at the ceremony, replaces Col. Dennis Devery, who is retiring. (Photo by Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th MPAD)



Outgoing commander of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Col. Kenneth Schechter, left, relinquishes the 50th IBCT colors to Maj. Gen. Steven N. Wickstrom, 42nd Infantry Division commander, at a change of command ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory on Feb. 12. Col. Mark PETERSKI was promoted to colonel at the ceremony and will assume command of the 50th IBCT. (Photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD)



Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, left, Acting Adjutant General, watches as Cathy PETERSKI, center, pins colonel rank on her husband, Col. Mark PETERSKI during a change of command ceremony at the Lawrenceville Armory on Feb. 12. PETERSKI assumed command of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from outgoing commander, Col. Kenneth Schechter. (photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, 444th MPAD)

POST - 9/11 GI BILL

A NEW BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY



**Joe Lech, right, and several members of American Legion Post #458, Trenton, brief Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Raymond Zawacki, third from right, and Director of Veterans Services Albert Bucchi, fourth from right,**

**on the use of the automated external defibrillator at the Veterans Haven in Winslow Township on Feb. 8. The North Trenton Post #458 purchased and donated the defibrillator to Veterans Haven. (Courtesy photo of Veterans Haven)**

## *Attorney General's Office hosting Veterans Civil Rights seminar*

The New Jersey Attorney General's (AG) Office in partnership with The American Legion will conduct a regional Veterans' Civil Rights seminar, on Feb. 18, from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Essex County College, 303 University Ave., Newark, NJ. The event will be hosted by The American Legion, Guyton-Callahan Post 152, and the College.

All veterans, family members, and veteran service organizations are invited to attend. You do not have to belong to The American Legion to participate.

The AG's Division on Civil Rights (DCR) is concerned, based on the lack of complaints, that discrimination claims against veterans with disabilities and active military personnel are under-reported. Therefore they have decided to launch their own outreach campaign based on these concerns, in conjunction with The American Legion.

Veterans are entitled to employment-related protection under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD). This law also provides substantial protection of those who seek to gain or continue employment with a disability. DCR has a special interest in any veterans with disabilities having discrimination complaints in employment, housing, and public accommodations. They are also concerned about military reservists and National Guardsmen that have lost their employment, or assigned to different positions following their return from a deployment.

Therefore, the AG's office produced an educational seminar to inform all veterans of their civil rights. The DCR will ensure the prosecution of all veteran discrimination cases, including employer and other business dealings. New Jersey's disability laws are more stringent than federal law, which will be part of this discussion. The AG's DCR also believes that veterans discrimination is being under reported, therefore a further need for this education. A representative from the Federal EEOC will also be present to explain Federal Discrimination Laws.

Additionally, another segment of the seminar will be explanation of the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act (VEVRAA) of 1974, which requires federal contractors and subcontractors to provide equal opportunity and affirmative action for Vietnam era veterans, special disabled veterans, and veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized.

The DCR will also explain the process to file a claim, and the locations of their offices that are available to assist veterans in need of these services. The American Legion will host this and further seminars across the state.

If you have any general questions pertaining to this seminar, please call Bob Looby, The American Legion's Coordinator, on 908-894-0746. You may also contact the Newark Attorney General's office at 973 648-4826.

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL HOST A "VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN" ON FEBRUARY 21-23 AT THE NEWPORT CENTRE MALL IN JERSEY CITY.**

**MEDAL CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST AT THE MALL'S CENTER COURT AT 11 AM**

**KIOSK HOURS:  
10 AM - 8 PM DAILY**

**MALL IS LOCATED AT  
30 MALL DRIVE IN JERSEY CITY**

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**VETERANS OUTREACH EVENT  
SATURDAY, MARCH 12 AT 8 P.M.**

**AT  
LOUIS BROWN ATHLETIC CENTER  
DURING RUTGERS MEN'S GAME VS. ST. JOHNS**

**NJDMAVA WILL HAVE AN OUTREACH TABLE  
WITH VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS PRESENT  
TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS  
AND ASSIST ALL VETERANS**

**Louis Brown Athletic Center, 83 Rockefeller Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854**

## *America Saves Week and NJ State Deferred Compensation seminar*

Meet with Mike McConnell from Prudential Retirement Services to learn about the America Saves program or discuss your State Deferred Compensation account.

Seminar starts at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 23, in Conference Room B (TAG Command Conference Room) from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Individual meetings will be held every 15 minutes with the representative.

Contact Paul Serdiuk in Human Resources Division at 609-530-6878 or via email at [paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us](mailto:paul.serdiuk@njdmava.state.nj.us) to schedule an appointment.

## *Gold Star Mothers to be honored at St Patrick's Day Parade*

A special presentation ceremony for Gold Star Mothers will be held at the Ocean County's St Patrick's Day Parade in Seaside Heights on March 10, at 12 p.m.

The Parade will present a special ceremony to honor the Gold Star Mothers, families, and their lost heroes at the end of the Parade route with numerous groups of bagpipers and musicians.

In addition, Judi Tapper, president of the New Jersey Gold Star Mothers, and T.J. Fearon will present approximately 20 Honor and Remember Special Flags to current New Jersey Gold Star Mothers. To find information, history and the meaning of this Flag, please visit <http://honorandremember.org>.

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**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**  
Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff – The Adjutant General (Acting)  
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff  
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer  
Air Force Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist  
Army Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist