



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER 27, 2012



NJARNG armory renamed in honor of local veteran

Retired New Jersey Army National Guard Col. Leonard J. Tharney speaks to the audience and family members about his memories of working with Wildwood resident Lt. Col James F. Bakalow during the Cape May Armory dedication Sept. 16. The Armory now bears the name of the World War II Army Air Corps pilot and later field artillery commander. (Photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore/444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

By Sgt. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The young Army Air Corps pilot made two unsuccessful bombing runs over his target and found himself low on fuel and under heavy fire. Instead of returning to base, James F. Barkalow turned the twin-engine A-20J bomber around for a third pass, evaded the fire from German anti-aircraft guns and found his target.

Years later, Barkalow's daughter, Sharon Ellis, asked why he made that third pass with a young family back home in New Jersey and so much to live for.

"I knew if I didn't do it someone else was going to have to come back and do the work I should have done," he replied, Ellis recalled her father telling her before he died in 2009 at the age of 89.

The people who joined Sharon Ellis on Sept. 16 for the renaming of the New Jersey Army National Guard Armory in Cape May Court House in honor of Lt. Col.

James Barkalow said his heroics in battle over Europe all those years ago exemplified the life he led.

For his actions as a pilot with the 410th Bomb Group, Barkalow received the Distinguished Flying Cross and nine Air Medals. But the people who gathered for the armory dedication said Barkalow made the biggest impact in New Jersey, over a 28 year career that included a stint as the longest serving battalion commander in the history of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

"He was very straight with people," said Leonard J. Tharney, a retired colonel who was mentored by Barkalow before taking command of the unit in Cape May County. Barkalow's career with the National Guard ended in 1980 culminating with his command of a company of the first nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missiles in the U.S. arsenal.

"He had an uncommon amount of loyalty and patriotism," Tharney said.

"When everyone else took a day off he was still working."

Barkalow's history with the armory began before it actually existed, when he and a group of WWII veterans and local concerned citizens lobbied to have a retired from the drill center that currently houses the 253rd Transportation Company. He presided over its dedication in 1961 and in his honor the 254th Trans. Co. stood in formation during the ceremony that dedicating their drill center in Barkalow's honor.

Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, Chief of the New Jersey National Guard Joint Staff, said that it was poignant that the ceremony was held the week of the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11th terror attacks because the heroic deeds of service members must be preserved by those most able to honor them properly.

"We're actively remembering a member of the New Jersey National Guard," Grant said. "Although he is gone, he will always be actively remembered. That's important."

Store supervisor displays patriotism, support for military members

By Donna Clementoni, New Jersey committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves

The supervisor of the Somers Point, N.J., ShopRite store made sure that his shoppers remembered the loss and sacrifice resulting from the 9/11 attacks.

With the help of one of the area soda distribution managers, Bob Wode initiated the creation of a 9/11 memorial in the lobby of the busy store. The visual exhibit carried the message, “9-11. Never Forget”, which was designed out of strategically placed boxes of soda cans.

The patriotic display was just another shining example of how the popular area food stores, part of the Wake Fern parent company, supports the community and embraces the men and women of the U.S. military who fight for our freedom.

“From its beginning, ShopRite has been a company built on giving back,” said Wode.

He personally embodies the generous spirit of the company who, as responsible members of the community, take great pride in every outreach program, every donation and every act of volunteerism.

“They participate,” said Wode. “Not because we have to, but because we truly believe that we are neighbors, and we are a part of one family.”

Consequently, Wode’s creativity and support for area veterans and active military members was recognized by the New Jersey Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) by presenting the district manager with a Seven Seals Award.

The award, depicting the heraldry of the seven branches of service they represent, is given at the discretion of the ESGR State chairman to honor those employers that are exemplary in their support of the American military. The men and women, citizen soldiers as they are known, of the National Guard and U.S. Reserves represent 48 percent of the U.S. military.

Furthermore, ESGR, a Department of Defense organization, consists mostly of volunteers, who seek to create a culture where all American employers value the military service and sacrifice of their employees. They accomplish this by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws and resolving conflict between employers and



Bob Wode, left, is presented the Seven Seals Award by Donna Clementoni, director of employer outreach for the New Jersey committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Former New Jersey Army National Guardsman and Wounded Warrior Peer Mentor/Alumni Ed Afanador and his service dog, Arnie, observes. (Courtesy photo)

service members.

Wounded Warrior Ed Afanador was present during the award presentation with his service dog, Arnie. Afanador knows all too well the loss and sacrifice that resulted from the World Trade Center attacks. He was deployed with the HHC 1st-114th Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the New Jersey Army National Guard and became disabled by injuries sustained at Ground Zero on the post 9/11 recovery mission. Furthermore, Afanador also has served in the Marine Corps and the 177th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard.

Currently, Afanador is volunteer-peer mentor/alumni with the Wounded Warrior Project and Disabled Sports USA.

Wode has two sons that are in the active military – one is with the U.S. Air Force and the other is serving a three year deployment in Germany with the U.S. Army.

DMAVA Employee Awards

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs’ Human Resources Division is requesting nominations for the DMAVA Employee Awards. Please forward all your nominations to Anna Marie Boutchia using the template that is available on DMAVAnet. It is requested that all nominations be typed when submitted for ease of processing and selection.

Please submit nominations for the 2012 Spring Trimester (May – August) by close of business Oct. 4.

If you have any questions regarding the awards process, please feel free to contact the Human Resources Division at 609-530-6889. The awards presentation date will be announced at a later date.

State Health Benefits

Just a note to let state employees know the Open Enrollment for State Health Benefits will be in the month of October.

The New Jersey Flexible Spending Account

Open Enrollment for the State Employees Tax Savings Program (Tax\$ave) starts Oct. 1, and ends Nov. 9.

Tax\$ave consists of three components: The Premium Option Plan (POP); The Unreimbursed Medical Flexible Spending Account; and The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.



2012 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event - Ocean City, NJ
 The Ocean City Music Pier
 801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ
 October 11, 2012
 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us October 11, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military and veterans spouses at The Music Pier, 801 Boardwalk at Moorlyn Street, Ocean City, NJ. This event will be a one-of-a-kind FREE hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

Employers Must register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net	Job Seekers Register for FREE at HoH.GreatJob.net To guarantee admission. Walk-ins welcome but space not guaranteed.
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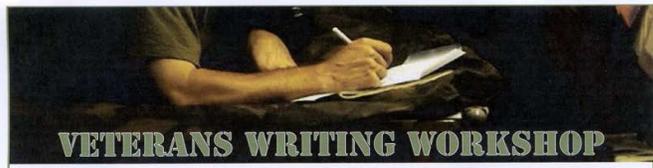
This hiring event is being sponsored by The American Legion, Cape May County, hosted and cosponsored by the Morvay/Miley Post 524, Ocean City, NJ, and is conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The American Legion, the Cape May County Chamber, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the New Jersey State Parole, the NJ State Library, the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the New Jersey Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, NBC News, and other local partners.

If you need assistance registering, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com.



WWW.USCHAMBER.COM/HIRINGOURHEROES

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is currently offered by
THE FORDHAM VETERANS INITIATIVE
September 20 - November 29 (10 Thursdays)
 6:30pm-8:30pm at Fordham Lincoln Center
 113 W. 60th Street, New York, NY
Free of charge to all U.S. Veterans



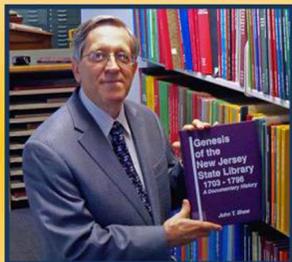
The Veterans Writing Workshop gives veterans the tools and confidence they need to bring their stories to life. Veterans will meet once a week for valuable peer support and feedback. The workshop will conclude with the publication of a print anthology that preserves and celebrates the veterans' writing.

If you are a veteran interested in finding a supportive community of writers to help you tell your story, we encourage you to join us.

What's your story?

To register for the free workshops email: info@veteranswritingworkshop.org or call (866) 933-7780
 For more information about the Veterans Writing Workshop, please visit our website at www.veteranswritingworkshop.org.

THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY PRESENTS
JOHN T. SHAW
THE GENESIS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY 1703-1796
A Documentary History



John Shaw shelving his book, the first book published by the New Jersey State Library.

Author John T. Shaw will talk about the early history of the Library. In his book, *Genesis of the New Jersey State Library, 1703-1796, a Documentary History*, Shaw describes how, although 1796 is generally considered the official beginning of the State Library, the books that started the library's collection were gathered and used by members of the state Assembly much earlier.

OCTOBER 4, 2012
Noon to 1 p.m.
Level 2 Reading Room
185 West State Street
Trenton, NJ

ALL ARE WELCOME.
RSVP IS APPRECIATED.

Contact Cindy Warrick:
cwarrick@njstatelib.org
 609-278-2640 ext. 172



Monday, October 8, 2012
Sea Oaks Country Club
 Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey

Support our nation's largest and most decorated ship - the Battleship New Jersey - by playing, sponsoring or supporting the Third Annual Battleship New Jersey Golf Tournament at beautiful Sea Oaks Country Club.

There will be lots of prizes, lunch and dinner, cocktails and, of course, golf!

Proceeds from this event benefit the on-going maintenance, restoration, preservation and educational program of the Battleship new Jersey Museum and Memorial.

Schedule

- Registration: 10 am - 11:30 am
- Lunch: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Shot Gun Start: 12:30 pm
- Cocktails: 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm
- Awards Dinner: 6:00 pm

Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial
 62 Battleship Place • Camden, NJ • 08103 856-966-1655 x 144
www.battleshipnewjersey.org



Photo above, a World War II veteran proudly display his service medals at the medal ceremony at Cumberland Mall Sept. 25. Photo below, Volunteers help unload the more than 40 dormitory-style refrigerators donated by the Veterans Support Organization to the Veterans Transitional Housing Program - Veterans Haven South located in Winslow Township Sept. 26. To see more photos from both of these events, please visit our [NJ DMAVA Facebook page](#). (Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)



DoD and VA to fund \$100 million PTSD and TBI study

The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are investing more than \$100 million in research to improve diagnosis and treatment of mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

“At VA, ensuring that our Veterans receive quality care is our highest priority,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki. “Investing in innovative research that will lead to treatments for PTSD and TBI is critical to providing the care our Veterans have earned and deserve.”

The two groups, the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) and the Consortium to Alleviate PTSD (CAP) will be jointly managed by DoD and VA.

A primary goal of CENC is to establish an understanding of the aftereffects of an mTBI. Potential comorbidities also will be studied; that is, conditions associated with and worsen because of a neurotrauma.

“PTSD and mTBI are two of the most prevalent injuries suffered by our warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan, and identifying better treatments for those impacted is critical,” said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Jonathan Woodson. “These consortia will bring together leading scientists and researchers devoted to the health and welfare of our Nation’s service members and Veterans.”

More than 15 percent of service members and Veterans suffer impaired functioning as a result of PTSD. CAP will study potential indicators of the trauma, as well as prevention strategies, possible interventions, and improved treatments. Biomarker-based research will be a key factor for CAP’s studies.

On Aug. 31, the President signed an executive order to improve access to mental health services for Veterans, service members and military families. As part of that executive order, the President directed the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education to develop a National Research Action Plan that will include strategies to improve early diagnosis and treatment effectiveness for TBI and PTSD. He further directed the Department of Defense and Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a comprehensive mental health study with an emphasis on PTSD, TBI, and related injuries to develop better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options.

Specific information on the consortia, including the full description of each award, eligibility, and submission deadlines, and General Application Instructions, are posted on the Grants.gov and CDMRP websites (<http://www.grants.gov> and <http://cdmrp.army.mil>, respectively).

E-mail your Photo of the Week or Highlights submissions to
wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR
armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

**Regional Conference
for New Jersey
Veterans**
on State and Federal Civil Rights Laws



Saturday, September 29, 2012
USS Battleship New Jersey
Museum and Memorial
62 Battleship Place - Camden, NJ
10 AM to 2 PM

Contact:
Keegan Ferrell, Event Coordinator
NJ DCR, 609-984-7092
Shalana McNeil, Outreach Assistant
NJ DCR, 609-292-7711



Scan for directions



Co-Sponsors: Battleship New Jersey • The American Legion, State of New Jersey
Camden County American Legion • Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs • Camden County

**Congressman Bill Pascrell's
Veterans Resource Fair**



Saturday, September 29, 2012
10:00 am - 1:00pm

Haledon Boys & Girls Club
83 Roe Street
Haledon, NJ 07508

- ◆ Speak to Veterans Service Officers and learn more about current veterans issues and your rights as a veteran
- ◆ Visit with representatives from VA NJ Health Care System, NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, VFW, and other veterans' organizations
- ◆ Sign up for Congressman Pascrell's veterans' mailing list

VA Medical staff will be available to take blood pressure and disburse free flu shots

For More Information, please call 973-523-5152

Program assists transitioning veterans with teaching careers

The "Troops to Teachers Program" is designed to assist separating or retiring military personnel pursue a rewarding second career in public education - elementary, secondary, or vocational - while also facilitating employment in public schools.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the U.S. Department of Defense through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), the long term goal of the program is to help improve American education by providing mature, self-disciplined, experienced and dedicated personnel for our nation's classrooms.



The "Troops to Teachers" office has counseled hundreds of interested military personnel, advising them on routes and programs to achieve full teacher certification and referring them to school districts for employment.

To learn more about the program, please visit www.proudtoserveagain.com or call 800-680-0884 to set up a counseling session at our satellite office at the Joint Military and Family Assistance Center at the Bordentown Armory located on 1048 Route 206 South in Bordentown.

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
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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