



DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 11, 2014



Carolers, left to right, Senior Airman Kris Gleason and Airman 1st Class Erin Raggio, both with the 177th Fighter Wing, along with a fourth grader from the Seaview School in Linwood, N.J., sing for residents at the Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, N.J., during the 14th Annual Holiday "Songfest" Dec. 9, 2014. The 32 Airmen from 108th Wing and the 177th Fighter Wing and the 47 students were assigned to groups and sent out to spread cheer among the residents. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



WREATH ACROSS AMERICA

Veterans honored at State House and Ellis Island



Photo left: Airman 1st Class Hannah Bartlett, 108th Wing, carries a wreath presented by Wreaths Across America as Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, observe at a ceremony in the New Jersey State House, Trenton, N.J., Dec. 8, 2014. Photo below: Edith T. Nowels, at podium, praises the actions of her brother World War II Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Horace M. Thorne as New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participate in a Wreaths Across America ceremony in the Registry Room, also called the Great Hall at Ellis Island, Jersey City, N.J., Dec. 10, 2014. This year's ceremony will be held Dec. 13 at Arlington Cemetery, as well as New Jersey's Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery near Wrightstown. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)



“Tis the season to drink responsibly

By Col. Maureen Harback, commander, 81st Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron

It's that time of year when holiday parties and late night celebrations begin to fill our calendars and we look forward to spending time with family and friends to celebrate our own special reasons for the season.

Every Christmas Eve, I celebrate my life and I give thanks for being able to share the holiday with my family. Nearly 30 years ago on Christmas Eve, my father, brother and I were hit by a drunk driver.

After a busy day of last-minute shoppers, my family and I closed our business at the mall for the evening. We were one of the last cars to leave the parking lot and I remember being the only one on the road. We sat patiently at a red light waiting to cross an intersection legally, even though there was no cross traffic for as far as the eye could see. Most travelers and shoppers had returned home in preparation for the holiday.

Meanwhile earlier that evening, a 19-year-old male left a Christmas Eve party after drinking. He was traveling on the divided highway that ran perpendicular to the access road we were exiting. The highway patrol later estimated his speed at more than 80 mph in a 45 mph zone.

He never remembered what happened

that night so the sequence of events from his point of view is speculation. I expect he was too impaired to realize that the traffic light turned red as he couldn't have slowed much to approach us so quickly.

As we proceeded through the intersection, turning left on the green signal, his vehicle suddenly appeared on the right traveling toward us. Fortunately, his driver's side front bumper only clipped the right front panel of our car, spinning us 180 degrees and into the grassy median. Our seat belts, fortunate timing, and the solid steel framework of our 1978 Chevrolet station wagon saved us from tragedy.

Unfortunately, more than 30 years later, this is still a fairly predictable scenario.

Holiday drinking often leads to buzzed and drunk driving. Mothers Against Drunk

Driving reports that approximately 1,000 people die between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day each year in drunk driving crashes. Hundreds more are injured or impacted, as we were that night.

As an Airman, I have the responsibility to lead by example; to drink responsibly, designate a driver and be a good wing-man; however, regardless of my actions, it is not enough to ensure my fellow citizens are following suit. As a result, I've adopted some defensive driving principles, and I am especially mindful of them at this time of year.

First, all riders wear a seat belt. Seat belts are the best defense against drunk drivers. The safest place to be in an accident is in your vehicle and safety belts assure you stay there.

Second, avoid roadways late in the evening and very early mornings, especially on holidays and weekends. More crashes occur at these times.

Finally, when I have to travel, I pay attention. Impaired drivers often show clear signs of danger. Swerving, traveling too fast or slow for the flow of traffic, and excessive braking, put me on alert.

Thirty years ago, timing was on my side. If the drunk driver had met us in the intersection a second later, the outcome may

have been grim. So, I pay it forward and ask that everyone to think before they drink, designate a driver, have a plan and drive defensively. With a concerted effort, we can all enjoy a happy and healthy holiday and return safely in 2015.



Photo by Dustin Senger

AROUND THE STATE

Photo right: Benjamin Wells of Southampton, right, receives the New Jersey POW/MIA Service Medal from Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, director, Veteran Health Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, during a state medal ceremony at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6253 in Berlin, N.J., Dec. 10, 2014. Wells, a World War II Army veteran, who was captured in January 1945 and sent to POW Camp Stalag in Mulberg, Germany. Wells weighed 97 pounds when the Russians liberated the camp. He was taken to LeHavre, France, then on to Atlantic City where the hotels were used as recovery hospitals. Nearly two dozen veterans, 21 from Vietnam era, received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and other state military awards during the ceremony. (DMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)
Photo below: Tactical air control party Airmen from the 227th Air Support Operations Squadron pull a Humvee being ridden by Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and an elf as they visit military members and their families at the annual holiday party at Atlantic City Air National Guard Base, N.J., Dec. 7, 2014. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht/Released)





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Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

Brigadier General Steven Ferrari, Director 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6766 Ernie Razzano, Health Professions Recruiter 609-530-6767 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Vacant, Admin Analyst 609-530-6940 Fax: 609-530-6970	Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016	Paramus Veterans Memorial Home Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658	Vineland Veterans Memorial Home Boris Reissek, CEO Sharon Davis, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714
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Veterans Services (DVS)

Albert J. Bucci, Director 609-530-6962 Cheryl A. Henderson, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075	Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Iven Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Interment Office Supervisor, – 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard – 609-758-7505 350 ProvinceLine Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490	Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 Korean Memorial Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 War World II Memorial W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608	Veterans Haven South Walter Nall, Supt – 609-561-4948 Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186	Veterans Haven North Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990
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State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonia, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196	Veterans Benefits Bureau Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Schofield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asst – 609-530-6826 Cynthia Barnes, Sec – 609-530-6868 Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970	Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 Korean Memorial Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 War World II Memorial W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608	Veterans Service Offices Chris Kulkosky, VSO Training Officer – 609-530-7050 Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nyizio, VSO – 609-530-6857 VA Regional Office/Philadelphia Vacant, VSO – 215-381-3033 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144
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Atlantic City/Cape May Edmond Famiglietti, VSO Vacant, Sec 1008 Absecon Boulevard, Atlantic City 08401-1999 ~ (Atlantic City Armory) 609-441-3060/3061 Fax: 609-441-3899 (<i>closed alternate Fridays</i>)	Bergen/Passaic Richard Mannes, VSO Titus Osaagwu, Sec 125 State Street, Suite 109, Hackensack 07601-5435 201-996-8050/8051 Fax: 201-996-8009	Burlington Charles Piscopo, VSO Bernadette Whitman, Sec 555 High Street, Suite 6A, Mt. Holly 08060 609-518-2273/2274 Fax: 609-518-2275
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Camden/Gloucester Joseph Frost, VSO Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 ~ (Woodbury Armory) 856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (<i>closed alternate Fridays</i>)	Essex/Union Lorena Huggins, VSO Helen Banks, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 431, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3336 Fax: 973-642-0830	Hudson Vacant, VSO Vacant, Sec 678 Montgomery Street, 2 nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 ~ (Jersey City Armory) 201-536-3404 Fax: 201-536-3404 (<i>closed alternate Fridays</i>)
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Mercer William McDonnell, VSO Theresa Tomecheck, Sec 151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room 136, Lawrenceville 08648 ~ (Lawrenceville Armory) 609-671-6697/6696 Fax: 609-671-6698	Middlesex/Somerset Joseph Battito, VSO Vacant, Sec 1060 Hamilton Street, Somerset 08873 ~ (Somerset Armory) 732-937-6347/6348 Fax: 732-937-6417 (<i>closed alternate Fridays</i>)	Monmouth Robert Brown, VSO Rita Hyland, Sec 630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320, Asbury Park 07712-6904 732-775-7009/7005 Fax: 732-775-3612
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Sussex/Morris William Robinson, VSO 479 West Clinton Street, Dover 07801 ~ (Dover Armory) 973-366-0245/8347 Fax: 973-366-0360	Warren/Hunterdon *Sibley Smith, VSO/Ombudsman Lisa Szymanski, Sec 550 A Route 57 Port Murray 07865-9482 908-689-5840/5845 Fax: 908-689-5879 *Flemington, 4 Gaunt Place, Flemington , 08822 (Wednesday) 908-284-6146	Salem/Cumberland Leigh R. Pottle, VSO Vacant, VSO Catherine Ranio, Sec 524 Northwest Boulevard, Vineland 08360-2895 856-405-4388/4390/4389 Fax: 856-696-6499
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NJ VETS LIST – (October 2014)

MILITARY FAMILY NIGHTS PROGRAM
Ideal for families with children 9-14 years old

Program Details

- Parents/Caregivers
 - Encourage good behavior
 - Protect against substance abuse
- Youth (ages 9-14)
 - Deal with stress
 - Handle Peer Pressure
- Family
 - Build family communication

PROGRAM DATES: DEC. 8 & 15

TO REGISTER or for more information contact:
Joe Conlin @609-261-0001 joeconlin@preplus.org

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 Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
 Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen – Layout, photographer
 Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Writer, photographer



UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Mount Laurel Library
100 Walt Whitman Avenue
Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054

Dec. 12: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)

Contact: Josephine Grey, (347) 501-2308

Jersey City Armory
678 Montgomery St.
Jersey City, N.J. 07306
Dec. 11, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dec. 18: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Contact: Darrel Hutchinson, (646) 354-0126

Army Community Service
Bldg 119
Dover, N.J. 07806
Dec. 12: 1 - 3 p.m.

Contact: Darrel Hutchinson, (646) 354-0126

Camden County Veterans Affairs
3 Collier Dr.-Lakeland Complex
Blackwood, N.J. 08012
Dec. 15: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (hourly)

Contact: Wil Acosta, (646) 300-1312

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK NJ energy rebates

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program offers a combination rebate of up to \$1,000 when you install a qualifying furnace along with an eligible standalone water heater or an indirect-fired water heater attached to the furnace.

Did You Know?

Typically, your water heater needs your furnace or boiler. So when you replace your furnace or boiler, you could be causing problems with your water heater. The pressure required to properly ventilate your water heater could be decreased, which can cause health and safety concerns. So, the best time to replace your gas water heater is at the same time you replace your furnace or boiler. If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov

DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN



Jan. 13 & 14
DMAVA "Veterans Outreach Campaign" Quaker Bridge Mall
(10 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
150 Quaker Bridge Mall,
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Feb. 11: DMAVA medal ceremony
Williamstown VFW POST #1616
11 a.m.
1940 North Blackhorse Pike, Williamstown, NJ 08094

DMAVA WILL HAVE A VSO PRESENT AT EACH EVENT TO HELP AND ASSIST ANY VETERAN

E-mail your Highlights submissions to:
mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov



STRONG BONDS

When: January 30 – February 1, 2015

What: Active Military Life and Resiliency Skills



Where: The Hotel ML
915 Route 73
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054



*Water Park is included for the entire family.

To find out more on Strong Bonds, contact Sgt. John Schwartz (609) 324-7039 or visit www.strongbonds.org
ALL DEPENDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED IN DEERS)