



DMAVA Highlights

October 27, 2006

Volume 5, Number 44

NJ Dept of Military
and Veterans
Affairs

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth
The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-
Dodson
Deputy Adjutant General

Col. (Ret) Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs

Contacting us is easy!

Public Affairs Office

SSgt. Barbara Harbison
Barbara.harbison@njdmava.state.nj.us

Or

609-530-7088

We're on the Web!
www.state.nj.us/military

News For Your Views

Please send all articles and submissions for publication to Mark Olsen for the November 3 and 10 issues of *DMAVA Highlights*. Deadline for the Nov. 10 issue is 10 a.m., Nov. 8, due to the holiday. His e-mail address is mark.olsen@njdmava.state.nj.us.

Sunday, October 29 is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Before you go to bed on Saturday, turn your clocks back one hour.

Tuesday, November 7 is Election Day - Make Your Vote Count!

Veterans Day, November 11

On Saturday, November 11, we honor the men and women who have served America with Veterans Day. Unlike [Memorial Day](#), which honors those who have died in wartime, Veterans Day honors all those who have served, in times of peace as well as in war.

Veterans Day is observed on November 11. The holiday was originally called Armistice Day, and it commemorated the end of [World War I](#) on November 11, 1918. Fighting stopped at 11 a.m., the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

In 1919, on the first anniversary of the World War I *armistice* (truce), President [Woodrow Wilson](#) issued a proclamation expressing pride in the heroism of those who had died during the war. Business stopped for two minutes starting at 11 a.m., and it later became customary to observe two minutes of silence from 11 a.m. Many states made Armistice Day a state holiday in the 1920s and 1930s, and in 1938 the Congress of the United States declared it a federal holiday.

In 1954 the name of the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor those who had served in [World War II](#) (1939-1945) and the [Korean War](#) (1950-1953). Today, the holiday honors all veterans. In 1968 Congress changed the date of the holiday to the fourth Monday in October to give Americans a three-day weekend. But because of the significance of November 11 to many people, the traditional date was restored by law in 1978.

The Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery annual Veterans Day ceremony will be held on the chapel committal plaza on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The Veterans Cemetery Advisory Council will also hold a flag retirement ceremony. The Doyle cemetery is located at 350 Province line Road, Wrightstown, NJ. You can contact them at 609-758-7250.-758-0169.



Veterans' Organizations

Contact Information

State Veterans Service Council

Mr. Richard Clark
RJClark21@msn.com

NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans
Mrs. Anna Hoffman

AnnaMHoffman@gmail.com

BG William C. Doyle Cemetery Advisory Council

Mr. William Rakestraw
warjrnj@msn.com

Veterans Hotlines



Benefits & Entitlements

1-888-8NJ-VETS
(1-888-865-8367)

Mental Health

1-866-VETS-NJ4U
(1-866-838-7654)

NJ World War II Memorial



For information or to make a donation, call 609-530-7049

located at Exit 116, Garden State Parkway, Holmdel, NJ, will hold their annual ceremony on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., rain or shine. As part of the ceremony, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation inducts veterans into the "In Memory" Program, which honors those who served in Vietnam and returned home only to die as a result of their tour, but whose names are not on the Memorial. For more information, call 732-335-0033.

* (facts about Veterans Day taken from Encarta.msn.com)

Trenton Vets Center hosting Vets Day celebration

The Trenton Vet Center is hosting a Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 8, 10 a.m. to noon, at their offices at 934 Parkway Ave., 2nd floor, Ewing. The guest speakers will be Freeholder Keith Hamilton and Councilman Berth Steinmann. If you have any questions, please call 609-882-5744.

Trenton Titans offering reduced rate tickets for Veterans Day

The Trenton Titans are having a "Salute to Our Military," night on Saturday, Nov. 11 at the Sovereign Bank Arena when the Titans skate against the Dayton Bombers. Tickets for the lower bowl seats are priced at \$11 for adults and \$9 for children 14 and under. The game starts at 7 p.m. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, either call the Trenton Titans at 609-599-9500, ext. 135 and ask for Ed or e-mail PAO@njdmava.state.nj.us and request a copy of the ticket order form. Once you complete the form, you can mail or fax it to the Trenton Titans for the tickets.

Nominations being accepted for EMAVA Employee of the Quarter

Nominations for the DMAVA Employee of the Quarter, 2nd Tripartite (May to August 2006) were due in Personnel by Sept. 10, but late recommendations for the awards will be taken until Nov. 1. Recommendations must be submitted on NJDMAVA Form 200.6 to Patty Smith, HRD. If you have any questions, please call 609-530-6847. The awards ceremony for the 2nd Tripartite is tentatively scheduled for February 2007.

Mexican Fiesta at Somerset Armory Nov. 19

The 42nd Regional Support Group Family Readiness Group is having a "Mexican Fiesta" to raise funds. The buffet lunch will be held at the Somerset Armory on Sunday, **Nov. 19**, from noon to 4 p.m. Please RSVP by calling the armory at 732-937-6390 or e-mail john.a.hales@us.army.mil.

"Slick Deals for Soldiers" on AKO

Do you have an AKO account? Those Soldiers, family members and guests who have an Army Knowledge Online account can use the latest addition to the Web site: Slick Deals for Soldiers. Here you can find deals to purchase calling cards and discounts on your phone services, discounts when purchasing a computer, free antivirus software for your computer, deals on car rentals and purchases, travel deals, theme park discounts and other coupons and discounts for Soldiers and their family members. So the next time you log onto www.us.army.mil to check your e-mail or find a regulation or one of the other many things available on AKO, stop by Slick Deals to see if you can find a good deal for your wallet.

Insurance for members of the Officers or Enlisted Association

ARE YOU COVERED? National Guard Association of New Jersey Group Life Insurance Program entitles members of either the Officers' or the Enlisted Association to enroll in the Association Life Insurance Program. This special program provides from \$5,000 to \$50,000 of Life Insurance for you, "round the clock." Premiums range from as little as \$2 per month and may be payroll deducted from your drill check. Family coverage for spouses and all children is also available at low rates designed for you as a member of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard. There are no aviation exclusions, no hazardous duty restrictions, no war clauses and no checks to write. Information can be obtained by contacting retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jack Petrosilli at 609-530-6843, or retired Brig. Gen. Robert S. Dutko Sr. at 609-273-1004. Enrollment forms



New Jersey Freedom Loans

What is a Freedom Loan?

- * Up to \$10,000
- * Annual APR 6%
- * Term: 5 years (no pre-payment penalty)
- * Unsecured Loan (no collateral required)

Who is eligible to apply?

NJ residents who are:

- * Members of the National Guard or Reserve
- * Mobilized for one year or longer to fight in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) - excluding routine training.

Or

- * Served 90 or more consecutive days in the GWOT on federal or state active duty (excluding routing training) and have received orders extending cumulative active duty a year or longer.

How do I apply?

- * Contact participating banks. Call or visit your local branch office to obtain an application.

can be obtained by calling retired Col. Frank L. Carlone, Program Coordinator, at 732-249-8335.

NJ ESGR Holds Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon

The New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee held its 2006 Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon at the McGuire AFB Community Center on Wednesday, Oct. 18. The morning conference was well attended with 65 committee members, speakers and guests present. All of the Reserve Component speakers did a fine job bringing the ESGR committee members up to date as to what is their service's current involvement in the Global War on Terror. Each of the seven reserve component services was represented. Retired Brig. Gen. Robert Dutko, State Chair and Col. Carmen Venticinque, Executive Director also addressed the group, as did Alan Smith, ESGR Training Coordinator and Nick Grand, ESGR Mobilization Coordinator. Eight-one members and invited guests attended the awards luncheon that followed the conference. Brig. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson spoke at the luncheon and thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Both Brig. Generals Dodson and Dutko made the award presentations. Four new member certificates, 11 Seven Seal Awards, 1 Above and Beyond Award, 1 Patriot Award and 1 Certificate of Appreciation were presented to the awardees. In addition 4 employers were present to sign 5 Star Statements of Support. After the luncheon a number of attendees toured the Joint Training and Training Development Center at Fort Dix.

Fill Your Date Book

Military Appreciation Day at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., will hold their second annual Military Appreciation Day on **Nov. 4** from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This open house is for service members, retired military and family members.

Among the special activities for the day are: liberators speaking at various times throughout the day and opportunity to meet survivors who volunteer at the museum. Families who do not want to take children under the age of 11 to the permanent exhibit will be able to visit, "Remember the Children: Daniel's Story."

The museum is located at 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW., Washington, D.C. Visit www.ushmm.org for more information.

112th FA Association 2006 reunion

The 112th Field Artillery Association will hold its 2006 Reunion on **Nov. 11 and 12**. The dinner and awards presentation will be held at the Lawrenceville National Guard Armory on Nov. 11 from 4-9 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person, \$90 per couple. On Sunday, Nov. 12 there will be a memorial service and concert at the armory at 11 a.m. with a free concert by the 63rd Army Band.

Honorable Mention

2006 CFC - "Every One of Us Can Be the Miracle"

The New Jersey National Guard Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has officially kicked off its 2006 Campaign which will run until the last week of November 2006.

The CFC provides each of us with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others and ourselves by donating to the community, national and international level human, health and environmental organizations. With more than 3,000 human and health service organizations listed in the CFC Catalog, there is certainly at least one cause deserving consideration for your personal contribution.

Contributions may be made via easy payroll deductions each year or by check.

Over the years, our Department has been most successful in this endeavor because of your personal generosity and concern. We urge every employee to support this worthy cause. Catalogs and payroll deduction forms will be going out to all full time Federal Technicians and AGRs.

* Guardmembers, Reservists, or family members with Power of Attorney must submit copies of current mobilization orders with the bank's Freedom Loan application.

Current participants:

- ☺ Commerce Bank
1-888-751-9000
- ☺ Credit Union of NJ
609-538-4061, ext. 401
- ☺ First Morris Bank & Trust
1-888-530-2265
- ☺ Manasquan Savings Bank
732-223-4450
- ☺ North Jersey Federal Credit Union
1-888-78NJFCU
- ☺ Peapack-Gladstone Bank
(908) 719-BANK
- ☺ Pennsville National Bank
856-678-6006
- ☺ PNC
1-866-PNC-4USA
- ☺ Sovereign Bank
1-877-391-6365
- ☺ Sun National Bank
1-800-691-7701

The CFC Coordinator for this year's Combined Federal Campaign is Jo Anne Miller, of the J1-HRO Office. For more information, please call 609-562-0851.

2006/2007 Employees Charitable Campaign - "Partners In Giving"

The New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (ECC) has officially kicked off its 2006/2007 Campaign which will run until Nov. 24.

The ECC provides each of us with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help others and ourselves by donating to any of the more than 1,400 participating agencies and organizations listed in the ECC Code Book. Contributions may be made by payroll deductions each year or by cash, or check.

Over the years, our Department has been most successful in this endeavor because of your personal generosity and concern. **We urge every employee to support this worthy cause.** Code Books and payroll deduction forms will be going out to all full time state employees.

This year's ECC Coordinator for the State's Employees Charitable Campaign is Walter Nall, of the DMAVA-HRO Office. For more information, please contact him at 609-530-6841. You may also access information on line at www.njsecc.org.

Guard gate now has a phone line

The Guard Booth Telephone Number is 609-671-6623.

Effective immediately all Directors, Managers, Supervisors and Employees that interface with outside personnel for hosting on-site meetings here at the Lawrenceville Headquarters are directed to notify the security guard when expecting scheduled visitors. If you are expecting a large party for a meeting or event please provide a roster of attendees, with the meeting date time and location to the gate guard prior to the event.

Enlisted Association offers new feature

The Enlisted Association of New Jersey has added to their Web Page a new feature called "On-GUARD Business Registry," designed to list businesses owned by current or former National Guard members, and the goods and services they offer. If you are a current or former member of the New Jersey Army or Air National Guard, this is a great cost-effective opportunity for your business to reach your fellow National Guard members. Just go to the Web site: www.eang-nj.org and fill out your application today.

Civil Air Patrol looking for BDU donations

The New Jersey Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. They perform inland search and rescue missions, aerial reconnaissance for homeland security and disaster relief missions. CAP has an active cadet program and aerospace education program for young people. All of the members are unpaid volunteers and must purchase their own uniforms, although CAP does try to provide uniforms for their cadet members without charge to them.

CAP is looking for donations of BDUs (woodland pattern) in wearable condition for use by their members. They can use pants, shirts, field jackets and caps. They will also accept Air Force Service Dress uniforms for cadet's use.

If you have uniforms to donate, please contact Maj. Rick Ulmer, (732)364-7755 or e-mail: caplawyer123@comcast.net. He will make arrangements for pick-up.

Tax-free in New Jersey!!

Does your shopping list have either a U.S. Flag or New Jersey flag on it? One good piece of news – the sales tax hike does not affect that purchase; in fact the purchase of either flag is TAX FREE in New Jersey. Please visit the following web page to check out the particulars: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/index.html?flag.htm>.

Army offers free courses for Soldiers and DA civilians

If you are an Army Soldier or DA civilian, you can access more than 2,600 information

Contact name
and number for
DMAVA
Highlights

Please submit any
articles and all
and information
to:

PAO Office
DMAVA Highlights
ATTN:
SSgt. Barbara
Harbison

DEADLINE IS
NOON
THURSDAY

Barbara.Harbison@nj.mava.state.nj.us

Or by calling
609-530-7088

technology, business, self-development and 30 foreign language courses for FREE through Army e-Learning. Visit www.us.army.mil and select "my education." In Fiscal Year 2006, almost a quarter million courses were completed. Some of the top 10 courses of the month for July were: Rosetta Stone Spanish and Arabic, Windows XP: Fundamentals, Accounting Fundamentals and Encryption Technologies.

DMAVA Hotline

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Hotline is:

1-866-232-5798

You will hear the following message:

You have reached the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Emergency Information Number. Please listen to the following menu choices and select an appropriate option:

State employees – press 1
Federal employees – press 2
National Guard employees – press 3

Affordable vacation spots around the world

Are you looking for an affordable vacation spot? The Armed Forces Recreation Center has resorts around the world for members of the Armed Forces, their families and other members of the Total Defense Force. Room rates are based on rank, pay grade, duty status, room size and/or room location. Reservations are required, policies vary by location and guests may not stay more than 30 consecutive days or register again within the following 90-day period. But if you are thinking of Hawaii, Germany, South Korea or Orlando as a possible vacation destination, this just may be the ticket! Visit <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/recreationcenters/> for more information.

JT2DC Memorial Walkway offers engraved pavers

The Joint Training and Development Center (JT2DC) recently unveiled the Memorial Walkway to the center. The purpose of the pond and walkway are to serve as a reminder that there are Soldiers in harm's way protecting the freedoms that we all cherish and enjoy.

The concept of the Memorial Walkway was to have Soldiers create a mark by dedicating inscribed bricks. Soldiers have chosen to honor loved ones, family members, friends, and personnel with whom they served.

Anyone interested in purchasing an engraved paver for \$50, should contact Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Maskery at (609) 562-0539.

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey

Membership

Give our state a larger voice by becoming a member of the Enlisted Association. The increased numbers will help us speak on all legislative issues that will benefit you and your families. The association works hard for you at the Federal & State level on all important issues. Visit the web site EANG-NJ.org, click on *Become a Member* for the application and find out more about what the association does.

Conference

Thanks to all who attended and pass the word for next year in Valley Forge, Pa.

For the Families

Guard Family Action Plan

The Guard Family Action Plan (GFAP) identifies issues of concern to Guard members, spouses, parents, children, retirees and civilian employees. The GFAP determines actions necessary to resolve issues and assigns responsibility for actions to the proper staff agency.

The proper staff agency begins at unit level within the chain of command and can

Quote for the week

I have a simple philosophy. Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. And scratch where it itches.

-Alice Roosevelt Longworth

include the Departments of the Army and Air Force and the Congress of the United States. You can submit an issue along with your recommendation for a solution through the GFAP website at www.gfap.org. If you have any questions, you can call Marie Durling in the State Family Programs Office at 609-562-0739.

Spouses invited to go on orientation flights

The 108th Air Refueling Wing would like to extend an invitation to the spouses of New Jersey Army and Air National Guardsmen and women who would like to see an aerial refueling up close.

This is a great opportunity for spouses to see the skills needed to fuel an aircraft more than 20,000 feet in the air. Seats will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are interested, please call 108th Public Affairs Office at (609) 754-4173 or e-mail at pa.108arw@njmcgu.ang.af.mil for the form needed to request a seat.

Guard members who would like an orientation flight or would like to nominate their bosses for a flight can also contact 108th PAO for information and forms.

Family Programs on the calendar

Oct. 20, TBA	West Orange FRG get-together, Arthur's, Morris Plains
Oct. 20, TBD	Movie Night, Burlington armory
Oct. 21, 8 a.m.	3.2 mile walk, Mercer County Park
Oct. 21-22	Great Wolf Lodge (outing), Pocono, Pa.
Oct. 28, 1 p.m.	Children's Halloween Party, Toms River FRG, Toms River Armory
Oct 28, 6:30 p.m.	The Bash – dinner and dancing – Newark FRG – L’Affaire, Mountainside, NJ
Oct. 29, 2 p.m.	Halloween party and costume parade, Kenvil VFW Post
Oct. 29, 8 a.m.-noon	Closter Lions Pancake Breakfast, Northern Valley HS, Demarest, NJ
Oct. 31, 6 p.m.	Halloween Parade, Toms River FRG, Toms River, NJ
Nov. 5, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.	Christmas Craft Day, Lawrenceville Armory
<u>Date Change</u> Nov. 18, 7 p.m.	Beef Steak dinner, Saddle Brook VFW

Family Readiness Group Meeting schedule

- Bordentown Armory – B Co 250th SBF & Co D 250th BSB – **Jan. 20**, 10 a.m.
- Hammonton Armory – 119th SB Corps –
- Jersey City Armory – D Co 2-113th –
- Lawrenceville Armory – 50th PSB –.; 50th Fin Bn –
- Morristown Armory – 3-112th & 5/117th –
- Newark Armory – A, B, E Co's 2-113th Inf – **Nov. 15**, 7 p.m.
- Port Murray Armory – 2-102nd Arm –
- Teaneck Armory – 50th SBM – **Nov. 16**, 7 p.m.
- Toms River Armory – C/3-112th FA –
- Vineland Armory – 5/117th Cav –
- West Orange Armory – B Co 5/117th Cav –
- Woodbury Armory – Trp C 5.117th Cav –

Recreation and Sports

Anheuser Busch extends complimentary ticket program

Anheuser Busch has announced its program offering free amusement park tickets to the service members and their families has become so popular it will be extended another year. The "Here's to the Heroes," is open to active duty service members, active members of the National Guard or Reserve, and up to three direct dependents for one complimentary admission per year. Participants can go online to fill out a form for free admission at <http://www.herosalute.com/>.

The amusement parks participating in the program are: *Sea World* parks in Orlando, Florida; San Diego and San Antonio; *Busch Gardens* parks in Tampa, Florida, and Williamsburg, Virginia; *Sesame Place*, a children's play and water park, near Philadelphia; *Adventure Island* water park in Tampa; and *Water Country USA* water park in Williamsburg.

Operation Oasis vacations for military personnel

Operation Oasis Outreach at Sandy Cove, North East, Md., offers a free, 3-day, 2-night time for rest and relaxation for military personnel who were deployed to the Middle East area during OIF/OEF with their spouse and children. Sandy Cove is located at the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. If you are interested, contact Carol Lee Lynch: toll free 1-800-287-4843 or e-mail c.lynch@sandycove.org.

Scholarship News

Grantham University scholarships: Grantham University offers a scholarship program to severely injured service members and their spouses and adult children. Go to www.grantham.edu for more information. They also have scholarship programs for military veterans, service members, and family members.

Widener University CARES Scholarship: Widener University, Chester, Pa., has a full scholarship program for children of Global War on Terrorism service members who were killed in action. Contact the Office of Admissions at 610-499-4126 for more information.

Veterans Information

DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues.

The DMVA Veterans Outreach Campaign continues with kiosk displays at selected malls throughout New Jersey. The schedule is as follows:

November 9-11	Menlo Park Mall
December 6-8	Paramus Park Shopping Center
January 11-13, 2007	Brunswick Square Mall
February 8-10, 2007	Moorestown Mall-with medal ceremony
Feb. 28, March 1-2, 2007	Hamilton Mall

The kiosk will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the identified dates.

VA Urges Veterans to Wear Medals on Veterans Day

WASHINGTON) -- The Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and leaders of major veterans organizations today called on America's veterans to help kindle a new spark of patriotism on Veterans Day by wearing the medals they earned during military service.

"We are announcing a Veterans Pride Initiative to remind Americans of the pride and honor in the hearts of those who have served," Nicholson said. "We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security."

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand, countries who

sees veterans wearing their military decorations whatever they are doing on that day. Nicholson said he hopes a U. S. tradition will ensue to emulate this pride in being a veteran and in honoring our veterans.

VA is offering information about the campaign on its Web page, <http://www.va.gov/veteranspride/>, where veterans also can obtain information about how to replace mislaid medals and learn how to confirm the decorations to which they are entitled.

Free medical exams and more for vets at Trenton Center, Nov. 15

Veterans – VA New Jersey Health Care and the Trenton Vet Center will provide free medical exams, medical benefits, readjustment services and employment services, on Wednesday, **Nov. 15**, from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your DD Form 214. The Trenton Vets Center is located at 934 Parkway Ave., Ewing. If you have any questions, please call 609-882-5744.

STANDDOWN Committee Members needed for CENTRAL JERSEY

StandDown helps the state's homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets by providing a broad range of necessities, including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling, and referrals, but most importantly, companionship and camaraderie.

We are looking for committee members to initiate the start up operation of Stand Down in the Central Jersey area. Membership is open to Veterans and volunteers over the age of 18 who are willing and able to give of their time, efforts and resources in assisting programs for homeless veterans.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member, you may contact Patricia Richter at 609-530-6949.

VA Hotline for identity theft concerns

Veterans having questions about recent incidents involving VA computers and personal information may call 1-800-333-4636 or (1-800-FED-INFO).

Ocean County opens PTSD counseling for vets

Ocean County veterans now have a place to get Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling. Once a week, counselors from the Trenton Vet Center will offer office hours at the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau, 1027 Hooper Ave, Building 2, Toms River.

To schedule an appointment, call 732-929-2096.

NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center's upcoming event schedule.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 4 / 1 p.m. / "Women at War: The Story of Fifty Military Nurses Who Served in Vietnam," book discussion by the author, Elizabeth Norman.

Nov. 11 / 11 a.m. / Veterans Day ceremony in the courtyard of the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

Nov. 30 / 6 p.m. / 4th Annual "Salute to Patriotism" Gala, with special guest Governor Jon S. Corzine; honoring veterans of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Tickets required. (click [here](http://www.njvvmf.org/pdf/galasponsorlevels.pdf) for more information: <http://www.njvvmf.org/pdf/galasponsorlevels.pdf>)

Dec. 2 / 1 p.m. / "The Day It Snowed in Vietnam," poetry reading and discussion by the poet, Vietnam Veteran Jim Scheuckler.

Dec. 9 / 6 p.m. / Holiday Lighting ceremony at the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP to (732) 335-0033. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested. The Educational Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4

p.m. Regular admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. Regular adult admission is \$4; student and senior citizen admission is \$2; and children under 10 are admitted free.

For more information, please call the NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation office at (732) 335-0033 or (800) 648-VETS. The Vietnam Era Educational Center is located adjacent to the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at Exit 116.

Trenton Vets Center open for counseling services

Located at 934 Parkway Ave, 2nd Floor, Ewing, N.J., the Department of Veteran Affairs, Trenton Vet Center, provides free readjustment counseling services to combat zone veterans and their families.

The Vet Center services include:

- Individual readjustment counseling
- Group readjustment counseling
- Screening for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Counseling for PTSD
- Substance Abuse counseling
- Marital and family counseling
- Sexual Trauma counseling
- Community education and liaison
- Referral for benefits assistance
- Employment Assistance

Heading the Trenton Vet Center Staff is James Gordon, team leader. Other staff at the center to help veterans and their families is Jeanne Morrison, Master Social Worker, Rawle Gaskin, Readjustment Counseling Therapist, Darryll Johnson, Readjustment Counseling Technician and Burnice Rice, Trenton Vet Center Office Manager.

The center is open Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with Wednesday and Thursday extended hours by appointment only.

All services provided to veterans and their families are at no cost and clients' rights are protected by HIPPA. For more information call (609) 882-5744.

Part-time opportunities in Military Funeral Honors Program.

The New Jersey Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program has several part-time employment opportunities immediately available across the state for TDGs and Technicians. Earn one day's base pay and one retirement point for a few hours work providing Military Funeral Honors for our Veterans. If you are interested, please contact Sgt. Maj. Edward Goetschius, Military Funeral Honors Coordinator, at 609-530-7090 or by e-mail at Edward.goetschius@nj.ngb.army.mil.

Mark your calendar....



Oct. 27 – Bring Your Jack-O-Lantern to Work Day

Oct. 28 – Plush animal Lover's Day, National Chocolate Day

Oct. 29 – Make a Difference Day – www.makeadifferenceday.com

Oct. 30– National Candy Corn Day.

Oct. 31 – National Magic Day, Increase Your Psychic Powers Day

Nov. 1 – Plan Your Epitaph Day

Nov 2 – National Deviled Egg Day

A Smile for your weekend

Green Coke and other food oddities:

- The straw was probably invented by Egyptian brewers to taste in-process beer without removing the fermenting ingredients which floated on the top of the container.
- The top layer of a wedding cake, known as the groom's cake, traditionally is a fruit cake. That way it will save until the first anniversary.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- The average ear of corn has eight-hundred kernels arranged in sixteen rows.
- Jelly Belly jelly beans were the first jelly beans in outer space when they went up with astronauts in the June 21, 1983 voyage of the space shuttle Challenger (the same voyage as the first American woman in space, Sally Ride).