



VETERAN JOURNAL



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUMMER 2004

Old Glory Opens



The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth along with members of various veterans' organizations watch as Governor James E. McGreevey (center) prepares to cut the ribbon officially opening the Old Glory Wing at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park on Apr. 30. Turn to page four for the story on the grand opening. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Devereaux Appointed Director Veterans Programs

By Roman M. Martyniuk, NJDMAVA/PAO

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs recently appointed William J. Devereaux to serve as the Director of Veterans Programs.

The highly decorated combat veteran of Vietnam and Camden County resident will be responsible for managing the 15 Veterans Services Offices located throughout the state.

"I'm extremely passionate about my responsibility to help every veteran in New Jersey receive every benefit, entitlement, and recognition which they have so justly earned by virtue of their patriotic service to both our state and country," stated Devereaux.

"By working closely with the commanders and representatives of the state's 36 plus chartered veterans organizations as well as the tens of thousands of individual veterans and family members not affiliated with any veterans group or organization, I hope to address the issues and concerns of a constituency that is both aging and changing."

Devereaux received his Bach-

elor of Science in Marketing from Tennessee Tech in 1967 and an Master of Business Administration from North Carolina State 1971. His military service from May of 1967 through May of 1970 included assignments in Artillery, Military Intelligence, and as a Paratrooper with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Mr. Devereaux served a full tour of duty in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division and was attached to the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division during the Tet Offensive in 1968.

His military awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citations, Soldiers Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm.

He also is active in a number of veterans' organizations including the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Silver Rose Society, 82nd and 101st Airborne Associations, Vietnam Veterans of South Jersey; Purple Heart Association and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers.



Veteran Journal

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth

The Adjutant General

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Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs

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The **New Jersey Veteran Journal** is an official publication of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is intended to serve New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends, and concerned individuals and groups. All correspondence should be sent to the editor at: NJDMAVA, PAO-V, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

Has Your Status Changed?

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PAO

New Jersey recently extended eligibility for State Veterans' benefits to those who served in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Assembly Bill 3564, which was approved on Dec. 16, 2003, provides veterans who served at least 14 days in country in support of either Operation,

benefits that include civil service preference, annual property tax deductions as well as other benefits.

If you have any questions, contact the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 1-800-624-0508 for more information.

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Message From The Governor

Dear Friends,

In this time of global uncertainty and conflict, I join you in renewing New Jersey's commitment to supporting our Armed Forces.

Each day, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice made by too many of our country's best and bravest individuals in the service of our Nation. I ask that in the coming months, as we celebrate Flag Day and the 4th of July, everyone embrace the true spirit of patriotism and demonstrate fervent support for those members of our Armed Forces who currently serve, as well as those 600,000 New Jersey veterans who have already answered their country's call.

While those in our military serve across the world, this Administration is working in New Jersey to provide all of our veterans with the services at home that they have earned.

Last month, we fulfilled a promise I made to New Jersey's veterans. On April 30th, we opened the Old Glory Wing at the Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park. By opening the Old Glory Wing, we will be able to care for 40 new special-needs residents and increase the overall capacity to 312 full-time residents.

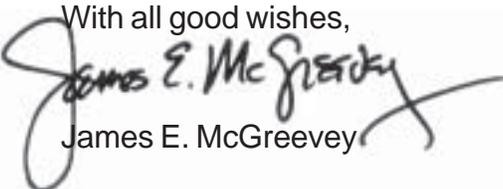
My Administration is also working to enhance our military's presence in New Jersey. Through Executive Order, we have created the Governor's



Governor James E. McGreevey congratulates one of the first recipients of the New Jersey Korean Service Medal during the Old Glory Wing Grand Opening at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park. The event took place April 30. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

Commission to Support and Enhance New Jersey's Military and Coast Guard Installations. This Commission will provide advice regarding opportunities and strategies to strengthen the New Jersey's military and Coast Guard operations.

Again, on behalf of the State of New Jersey, please accept our thanks for all that you have done in serving America. We hope for the safe return of our men and women currently in harm's way, and their success in fulfilling their mission.

With all good wishes,

James E. McGreevey

Old Glory Wing Opens At Menlo Park

By Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO; photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

On Apr. 5, the Old Glory Wing at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park began accepting residents.

It began at 7 a.m. with the nursing staff receiving their first assignment of the unit.

An hour and a half later, the first resident arrived and was escorted into his clean, freshly decorated room.

"This is a great moment for our state's veterans and it's a step in the right direction towards better serving our state's 650,000 veterans," stated Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO of the Menlo Park Home. "This high quality care center is exactly what veterans have earned by virtue of their patriotic service. We are extremely proud and honored to provide these additional services to the veterans who so bravely served us."

This unit will take special need residents into consideration and



Both the 63rd Army Band and the residents enjoyed themselves at the Old Glory Wing Grand Opening at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.



Governor James E. McGreevey greets a resident following the ceremony at the Old Glory Wing grand opening.

the unit will serve Alzheimer's and dementia related residents. Old Glory is a secure unit that provides a safe environment for residents who are at risk for wandering.

A new Menlo Park Veterans Home facility was completed several years ago to replace the previous, antiquated, 100 year-old "Old Soldier's Home". However, the "Old Glory" wing was not opened due primarily to a shortage of qualified nurses that created a situation in which the facility could not meet Department of Health mandated staff-resident ratios

The newly opened wing will provide 40 beds to veterans suffering from Alzheimer's.

Veterans must apply for admission on a 'first come' basis and will be placed on a waiting list when maximum capacity is reached.

On Apr. 30, Governor McGreevey officially dedicated the Old Glory Wing; several hundred guests were in attendance.

The "Grand Opening" Ceremony began at 11 a.m. in the Town Square area of the facility and was followed with an official ribbon cutting at the entrance of the unit. After the ceremony, guests had the opportunity to tour the unit in small groups led by the Veterans Home staff.

"We look forward to the Old Glory Grand Opening and providing the continued service to our country's Veterans," concluded Joseph Brandspiegel.

First New Jersey Korean Service Medals Awarded

Photos and story by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA



Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth awards the first New Jersey Korean Service Medal to Larry Holmes at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Apr. 30. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Old Glory Wing opening.

The first New Jersey Korean Service Medals were presented in a ceremony at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Apr. 30.

Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey presented the medals to 15 residents of the veterans home.

The New Jersey Korean Service Medal was approved Feb. 3, 2003. In order to receive the medal, veterans must meet all of the following criteria:

Be a New Jersey resident who was on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace on or

after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955

Been given an honorable discharge for their service and:

Was attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; or

Was attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations; or

Participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Korea or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations; or

Posthumous - the surviving spouse or immediate family member of any resident of the State meeting the requirements for the medal who was killed while on active duty or who died after receiving an honorable discharge from the armed forces. Only one award of the medal and ribbon per eligible veteran.

Anyone interested in applying for the New Jersey Korean Service Medal should send a completed application together with copies of all pertinent information including discharge documents and mail it to:

New Jersey Department of Military And Veterans Affairs
Attn: DVP-VBB - Kathy Burek
PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

Be sure to include full name, home address and daytime telephone number.



The New Jersey Korean Service Medal

Stand Down 2004: A Hand Up To Homeless Veterans

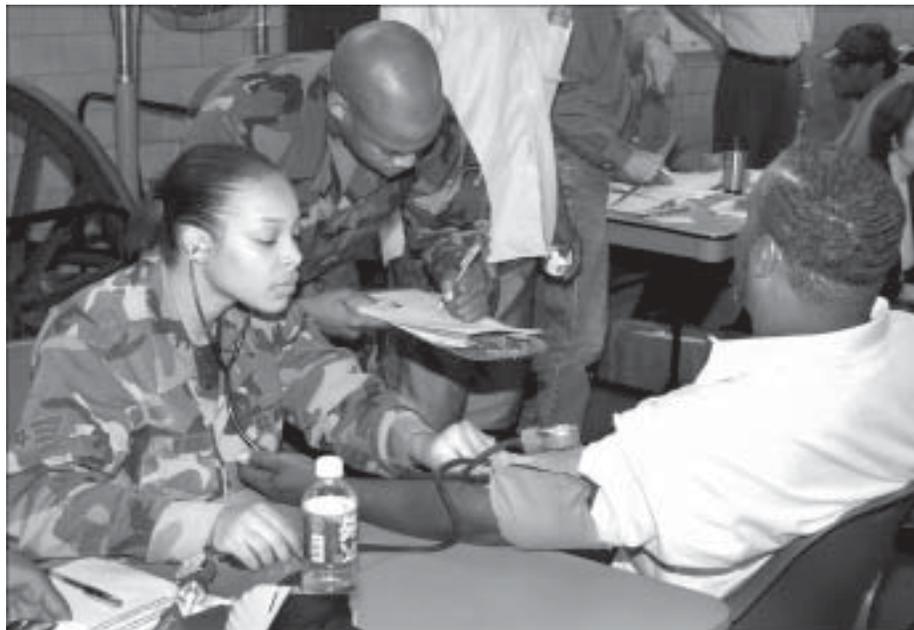
By the Veteran Journal Staff

On Sept. 24, beginning at 8:00 a.m., the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and Stand Down of South Jersey, Inc., will be co-hosting Stand Down 2004 at the National Guard Armory at Cherry Hill.

DMAVA, along with many volunteers and civic organizations is holding the Stand Down to provide homeless veterans with access to healthcare, mental health screening, substance abuse counseling, social services availability, religious counseling, a hot meal, a haircut and winter clothing. Stand Down's ultimate goal is to show disenfranchised veterans that someone still cares and to assist him or her in bringing their homelessness to a close.

This is the fourth Stand Down to be held at the Cherry Hill Armory. Last year 137 homeless veterans and their families attended the Stand Down. In years past, Stand Downs have been held at Fort Dix and Naval Weapon Station Lakehurst.

On any given night there are



Members of the 177th Fighter Wing Medical Squadron take vitals during Operation Stand Down 2003 at the National Guard Armory at Cherry Hill. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Declan Callan, NJDMAVA/PAO.

341,000 veterans estimated to be homeless, up from 274,000 in 1995. About one-third of the homeless in the United States have served in the Armed Forces and the number of homeless Vietnam veterans exceeds the number of service members killed during any

given conflict. There are currently 7,500 homeless veterans in New Jersey.

To donate goods for the Stand Down or to become a member, please contact Kim Castner at (800) 624-0508.

Your Veterans Benefits Bureau

By the Veteran Journal Staff

The Veterans Benefits Bureau is a six-person team responsible for reviewing applications for the following programs:

Determining veterans' status for preference and pension status, which includes veteran's preference for hiring in New Jersey Civil Service and Veterans status for pension purposes.

The N.J. Veterans and Spouses Catastrophic Entitlement Program.

Grants and Aids – POW/MIA/War Orphan/Veterans Tuition Credit Program, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Transportation.

N.J. Property Tax Deduction/Exemption Program works hand-in-hand with tax assessors to determine eligibility for the property tax benefit.

New Jersey Medal Program: New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Medal, Vietnam

Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and replacement of State Medals.

Operation Recognition Program (N.J. High School Diploma). Stand Down Operations.

If you have any questions or you need information regarding any one of the listed entitlements please contact Kathy Burek at 609-530-6876.

Military Retirees To See Pay Increase

From the Department of Defense

On Feb. 2, an estimated 150,000 military retirees will see an increase in their pay. The National Defense Authorization Act, enacted in November 2003, significantly modified a long-standing law preventing retirees from receiving full-retired pay if they also received disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new law allows what has been dubbed "concurrent receipt" of military retired pay and VA disability pay for retirees with more than 20 years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or greater. This restored pay will be phased in over a 10-year period that began Jan. 1, 2004.

Retirees are not required to take any action to receive the ad-

ditional pay. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service have already identified eligible retirees and have started making adjustments to their military retired pay.

The first payments are due the first business day of February for the law change that was effective Jan. 1. The additional funds will be paid Feb. 2 based on entitlement for Jan. 1-31, 2004. The restored pay is paid on the same schedule as current military retired pay. Recurring payments will be made on the first business day of each month based on entitlement for the prior month.

For the majority of military retirees, the additional money is taxable income and subject to federal tax withholding.

One category of military retirees that is eligible for additional funds will not be paid Feb. 2 - those who receive retired pay based on a disability percentage instead of years of service. Further guidance is needed from the Department of Defense to determine how the law will be applied in these cases. Once guidance is received, payments will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2004. An estimated 2,800 military retirees fall into this category.

For more details regarding who is eligible for the restored pay and how payments will be made, visit www.dfas.mil and see the topics under "Retired and Annuitant Pay," or visit the myPay website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>

Volunteer Program At New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes

By Edward Weisenhorn

The volunteer program at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, Menlo Park and Vineland consists of individual, youth, and organizational volunteers.

The volunteers perform a wide range of services to our residents. Some of the volunteers are called "Friendly Visitors" who visit with individual residents as you would a friend or loved one in a nursing home or hospital. At times everyone just needs someone to talk to.

Our facilities are blessed to have volunteers with special talents that they share with the residents. Volunteers assist residents in the arts and crafts room, working on projects such as painting pictures or building bird feeders. Some of their finished products

are currently on display as you enter the facilities. Other volunteers who have musical abilities entertain our residents by playing beautiful melodies on our piano in Town Square.

Still other individual volunteers assist the recreation department by running programs such as trivia, or going on trips to aide our residents. Volunteers also run our Gift Shop, work in the Library or on the nursing units. Our volunteers are so involved in the operation of each facility that it is difficult to discriminate between volunteers and employees.

The Veterans Memorial Homes also benefit from the many Veterans and community organizations that provide functions that our residents always look forward to.

These organizations run bingo, picnics, and schedule trips outside the facility. They not only donate their time but also make monetary donations for entertainment and other quality of life needs for the residents.

As a way of saying Thank You to our volunteers both individual and organizational, the facilities conduct a Volunteer Luncheon to pay tribute to those who give so much to the residents.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the Director of Volunteer Services at each facility:

Menlo Park: position vacant
(732) 452-4133
Paramus: Susan Pettigrano
(201) 967-7676, ext. 324
Vineland: Lois Ballurio
(856) 696-6354

SAA News

By Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief, State Approving Agency

Recent federal legislation has increased the GI Bill education rates for Chapter 35, Survivors and Dependents effective July 1, 2004. The rates increase as follows: \$788 per month, full time attendance; \$592, $\frac{3}{4}$ time attendance; and, \$394, $\frac{1}{2}$ time attendance at an approved college, university, or non-college degree school.

The State Approving Agency has recently completed approval of various on the job training programs at PSE&G Nuclear Power Plant in Salem County, N.J. The initial approval consists of four On-the-Job-Training (OJT) programs with an average length of 15 months of training. The SAA will be pursuing other jobs at the plant for approval in a continuing effort to expand apprenticeship and on the job training programs for New Jersey's veterans and other eligible persons.

In addition, the SAA has completed an apprenticeship training agreement with the New Jersey State Police. A two-year apprenticeship program was approved and retroactive payment of benefits for eligible persons are being processed. New Jersey state troopers can earn approximately \$11,000 in benefits in addition to salary while in the training program.

ROK War Service Medal

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) is honoring Korean War veterans or the next of kin of eligible veterans, by issuing a Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

The United States Air Force has been designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals, which will be provided at no cost.

For information on how to apply for or request the medal can be found by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST) at (866) 229-7074, or the Awards and Decorations Section (210) 565-2432/2520/2516, or by writing to HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714. You can also visit their website at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards/ where you can download the forms necessary to apply for the medal.

VA Insurance Dividends

From the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The 1.5 million veterans who are active policyholders of veterans' life insurance from policies served between 1917 and 1956 will receive more than \$517 million in dividends in 2004.

The payments will be sent on the anniversary date of the policy, with the specific dividend amount varying according to age, type of insurance and length of time the policy has been in force. Only those with policies that have been kept in force when premiums were required are eligible for the payout.

Payments are expected to reach \$416.8 million for the 1.2 million veterans of World War II with National Service Life Insurance ("V") policies. The 11,000 veterans with Government Life Insurance ("K") policies will be paid dividends totaling \$1.8 million.

Those nearly 200,000 Korean War Veterans who have maintained the Veterans Special Life Insurance ("RS" and "W") policies can expect to receive dividends \$83.9 million.

And for those veterans from World War II who have the Veterans Reopened Insurance ("J", "JR" and "JS") policies, who currently number approximately 53,000, they will share a \$14.7 million dividend.

Current active-duty service members and reservists are covered under the Service members' Group Life Insurance through a private carrier and no dividends are paid on this insurance. Nor are dividends paid on the VA term insurance that covers veterans who were discharged after 1956.

Questions about a policy can be answered by calling the VA Insurance toll-free at 800-669-8477, or send an e-mil to Vainsurance@vba.va.gov or go to the web site at www.insurance.va.gov

DAR Donates 12K To Veterans Haven

On May 1, the New Jersey State Society of Daughters of the American Revolution presented Veterans Haven with a donation of \$12,200.

The donation will assist with the purchase of a new van.

Veterans Haven is a transitional housing program for homeless veterans. Veterans may reside at Veterans Haven for up to two years. During that period, they receive employment assistance and life-skill training. During the past nine years, Veterans Haven has opened its doors to more than 500 veterans.

Veterans' News You Can Use

Compiled by the Veteran Journal Staff

Facts About VA Disability Compensation

Disability compensation for veterans is not subject to federal or state income tax. About 80 percent of veterans receive their VA benefits by direct deposit, which VA recommends for security reasons.

Veterans are rated at increments of 10 percent reflecting degree of disability. The largest category of veterans on the compensation scale is at 10 percent disability (\$106 per month), with 791,000 veterans at this rate at the end of fiscal year 2003 among the total 2.5 million veterans receiving disability compensation.

Disability criteria are available online at http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_03/38cfr4_03.html As medical knowledge, laws and procedures change, VA regularly publishes proposed changes to these criteria in the "Federal Register" for public comment before a final regulation is adopted.

Where a veteran has more than one disability, the percentages are not added together to produce a new, overall rating. Instead, a formula described in federal regulations calculates the overall rating.

A veteran may be rated at zero percent, meaning there is evidence of the service-connected condition, but it does not impair the veteran. An example is a minor scar. This zero percent rating, though not compensable, is beneficial, since it raises the veteran's priority in other VA programs, and it may be reviewed for a higher rating if the condition worsens. A veteran may have a number of disabilities individually evaluated as 0 percent, which produce 10 percent combined disability and entitle the veteran to disability compensation. At the end of fiscal year 2003, there were 16,000 veterans in this category of "compensable zero" ratings.

In addition to the 2.5 million veterans on the compensation rolls, past studies have shown approximately 1.2 million veterans have overall ratings of 0 percent, but because they do not receive payments from VA, the exact number is not known.

The largest category of service-connected disabilities is musculoskeletal problems, accounting for 40 percent of all disabilities. This includes such problems as impairment of the knee and arthritis due to trauma. Data on the number and type of disabilities are published annually at <http://www.vba.va.gov/reports.htm>

Hire The Heroes

Veterans who gained their automotive repair skills in the military are getting help from a leading automotive industry group to help them get the qualifications needed to find a job in the service technician career field. Automotive Retailing Today's program, Hire the Heroes, will give automotive dealers opportunity to network with military outplacement personnel and develop relationships to transition veterans into service technician careers. Veterans can use their Veterans Educational Assistance Program or Montgomery GI Bill to take the ASE certification courses. For more information on Hire the Heroes, go to www.autoretailing.org/military

VA Launches New Web Site On Hepatitis C

A new website on hepatitis C: www.hepatitis.va.gov was launched through the collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California at San Francisco's Center for HIV Information.

The website has a veterans section that includes general information and links to other websites.

Hepatitis C is the most common blood borne infection in the United States, affecting 2 percent of the population. VA cares for more hepatitis C patients than any other medical system, with more than 200,000 patients since 1996.

Hats Off...

On Feb. 5, Drew Madzin of Guardian Lawn & Turf, Inc. was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Col. Stephen Abel on behalf of Brig. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth for the company's yearly contribution of providing lawn care to New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial complex.

VA Seeks Volunteers To Inventory Memorials

The Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking volunteers to research and photograph monuments in its 120 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots. For additional information about the project or to volunteer, please contact VA historian Darlene Richardson at 202-565-5426 or e-mail nca.memorials@mail.va.gov

Disabled Vets Get Priority From VA

From the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Under a new directive, all veterans with service-connected medical problems will receive priority access to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans' Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi issued the new directive to all VA medical facilities to give "priority access" to qualifying veterans seeking medical treatment.

"Caring for veterans with service-connected medical problems is a major reason VA exists," said Secretary Principi. "This directive should ease the minds of veterans who no longer have to wait for health care appointments."

The new directive provides that all veterans requiring care for a service-connected disability — regardless of the extent of their injury — must be scheduled for a primary care evaluation within 30 days of their request for care. If a VA facility is unable to schedule an appointment within 30 days, it must arrange for care at another VA facility, at a contract fa-

cility or through a sharing agreement.

The directive covers hospitalization and outpatient care. It does not apply to care for medical problems not related to a service-connected disability. However, veterans needing emergency care will be treated immediately.

The new provision is an extension of rules that took effect in October 2002 for severely disabled veterans. Under the earlier rule, priority access to health care went to veterans with disabilities rated at 50 percent or more. For the severely disabled, the priority includes care for non-service-connected medical problems.

The number of veterans using VA's health care system has risen dramatically in recent years, increasing from 2.9 million in 1995 to nearly 5 million in 2003. Although VA operates more than 1,300 sites of care, including 162 hospitals and more than 800 outpatient clinics, the increase in veterans seeking care outstrips VA's capacity to treat them.

Veteran Profile

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has developed a database of veterans who reside in the state. This database is useful in providing New Jersey veterans with information regarding entitlements, special meetings, assessing needs and deciding future goals and initiatives. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-624-0508. Please fill out the form below including the questions at the bottom and mail this form to: **ATTN: DCVA-DVS**

**NJDMAVA
PO Box 340, Eggert Crossing Rd.
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0340**

Last Name _____		First Name _____		Middle _____	
Street Address _____					
City _____		County _____		State _____	Zip Code _____
Branch of Service _____			Dates Of Service _____		
Military Service (please check as applies)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Between WW I to WW II		<input type="checkbox"/> Grenada (Oct. 23, 1983 - Nov. 21, 1983)			
<input type="checkbox"/> WW II (Sept. 16 1940 - Dec. 31, 1946)		<input type="checkbox"/> Between Grenada and Panama			
<input type="checkbox"/> Between WW II to Korea		<input type="checkbox"/> Panama (Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea (June 23, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955)		<input type="checkbox"/> Between Panama and Persian Gulf			
<input type="checkbox"/> Between Korea and Vietnam		<input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf (Aug. 2, 1990 - Present)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (Dec. 31, 1960 - May 7, 1975)		<input type="checkbox"/> Somalia (Dec. 5, 1992 - Mar. 31, 1994)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Between Vietnam and Lebanon		<input type="checkbox"/> Bosnia (Nov. 20, 1995 - Present)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon (Sept. 26, 1982 - Dec. 1, 1987)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Between Lebanon and Grenada					

Group Joins Forces In Veterans History Project

From the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is joining forces with the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to record interviews with veterans for presentation to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

"I am proud VA is a part of this very important effort to preserve the legacy of America's veterans," said Principi. "This project will allow younger generations of Americans to learn about the sacrifices and patriotism of those who fought to guarantee their freedom."

"It is so important for all Americans to reach out to veterans and I know that our women legislators

are honored to be a part of this project and to have the opportunity to be working so closely with our nation's heroes," said Robin Read, president and CEO of NFWL.

Women elected officials from every state and U.S. territory have been selected to serve as veterans team leaders for NFWL's "Heart to Heart" program to record interviews with veterans for presentation to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. VA will assist NFWL in locating veterans to be interviewed and will provide nationwide public affairs support. DAV is encouraging its members to interview their fellow disabled veterans or to allow a volunteer to interview them.

Team leaders have been fo-

cusing on interviewing World War I and World War II veterans. During the next year, they will also interview veterans of Korea, Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars.

Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress is collecting audio and video recorded histories, along with documentary materials such as memoirs, letters, diaries, maps, photographs and home movies. The material will be available to veterans, their families, researchers, historians and future generations of Americans at the Library of Congress, with representative samples also online at the Veterans History Project web site at www.loc.gov/vets.

Website To Help Military Retirees Apply For CRSC

From the Department of the Army

The Department of the Army recently announced a new website designed to assist disabled military retirees in applying for Combat-Related Special Compensation.

The Army CRSC website, which went online the week of Jan 12, provides all the information that a disabled military retiree needs to know in order to apply for CRSC, said officials from the Human Resources Command. The site provides program guidelines used to determine eligibility for combat-related disability benefits and application procedures for the program.

"The site includes an application form, which can be downloaded, and it gives detailed instructions of the application process," said Brig. Gen. Gina S. Farrissee. "It also contains support-

ing documentation required to substantiate a claim and helpful tips on how to enable the timeliest application processing."

In addition the new website includes:

- * Guidance on how and where to file an appeal for retirees who previously submitted applications that have been determined ineligible or have been declined.

- * A detailed listing of specific information and documentation that is frequently overlooked by applicants in their initial applications, as well as procedural and timing considerations.

- * Phone and e-mail points of contact in the event customers have difficulty navigating the site or need

specific information about the CRSC program.

As a provision of the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act, CRSC allows eligible disabled military retirees to collect payments for both their military service and their service-related disability.

To visit the Army's CSRC website, go to <http://www.crsc.army.mil>



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

Atlantic/Cape May

1601 Atlantic Avenue, 7th Floor
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 441-3060/3061
Fax: (609) 441-3899

Bergen

Center City Plaza
60 State Street
Hackensack 07601-5427
(201) 996-8050/8051
Fax: (201) 996-8009

Burlington

Mt. Laurel Corporate Center
1000 Howard Blvd., Suite 301
Mt. Laurel 08054
(856) 787-3820/3821
Fax: (856) 787-3822

Camden/Gloucester

215 Crown Point Rd., Suite 300
Thorofare 08086
(856) 853-4184/4185/4186
Fax: (856) 384-3781

Essex/Union

1196 Chestnut Street
Elizabeth 07201-1053
(908) 820-3133/3134
Fax: (908) 965-2954

Hudson

3rd Floor, Room. 302
438 Summit Avenue,
Jersey City 07306-3158
(201) 798-7040/7051/7026
Fax: (201) 798-7036

Mercer

28 W. State Street, 5th floor
PO 671, Room 514
Trenton 08625-0671
(609) 292-5880/5881
Fax: (609) 633-6852

Middlesex/Somerset

711 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick 08901-2102
(732) 937-6347/6348/6349
Fax: (732) 937-6417

Monmouth

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320
Asbury Park 07712-6904
(732) 775-7009/7005
Fax: (732) 775-3612

Ocean

James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic
970 Route 70
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Dover 07801
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