

# VETERANS JOURNAL

APRIL 2025





## Cover photo:

Lorraine Brown, a resident at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland reads a Valentine's card made by members of the Hammonton Canoe Club at Vineland, New Jersey, Feb. 13, 2025. Club volunteers delivered more than 200 cards – each with a crocheted heart – to the residents. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

**PHOTO ABOVE:** John Moore from Liberty Unit, New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus, displays his catch during a fishing expedition with the Double V Rod and Gun Club at the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge in Sussex County, June 1, 2024. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Michael Khan)

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VETERANS 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, concerned individuals, and groups. All correspondence should be sent to: Veteran Journal Editor, [feedback@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:feedback@dmava.nj.gov)



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# “Serving Those Who Served”

By Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays

The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



U.S. Air Force Col. Yvonne L. Mays, Deputy Adjutant General of New Jersey, left, shakes hands with a World War II Veteran after the 80th Anniversary Observation of D-Day at the New Jersey World War II Memorial in Trenton, New Jersey, June 6, 2024. The ceremony

commemorated Operation Neptune – D-Day, June 6, 1944, when Allied forces invaded Normandy, France, to turn the tide of the war in Europe. (New Jersey National Guard photo by Mark C. Olsen)

As The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, I lead teams of dedicated professionals committed to serving the people of New Jersey and the United States. Whether at home or overseas, in a veterans facility or on a flightline, the Citizen Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians who power our success are warfighters and public servants.

The late General Colin Powell once said, “Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.” Those words stay with me as I consider the tremendous achievements of our organization. Personally, it is my goal as a leader to live up to a prevailing attitude of excellence. Collectively, I am motivated to ensure that our team continues to prepare and respond to future opportunities and challenges.

Our mission, in simple terms, is to support those who serve, those who have served, and the people who love them. Today, New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more in the area of state-delivered veterans benefits, programs, and services than at any time in our history. I hope you will join us.

Join us in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs to bring statewide veteran homelessness to functional zero by July 1, 2026.

Join us in spreading the word about State of New Jersey Veterans Service Offices located in each of the Garden State’s twenty-one counties.

Join us in connecting individuals struggling with mental health challenges to NJDMAVA’s no cost in-person counseling services.

Join us in the Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families. Become one of the more than 500 New Jerseyans who have attended Mental Health First Aid Training to become better equipped to support and respond to individuals in crisis.

Join us at any one of our hundreds of outreach events. Ask questions about what we do. Learn about your eligibility for benefits. Hold us accountable.

Join us in supporting America’s newest Veterans. Whether Service Members separating from active duty at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, or the New Jersey National Guard Soldiers and Airmen recently returned from overseas deployment.

Join us in partnership with New Jersey’s Veteran Service Organizations. We are stronger when we work together. In doing so, we create the conditions for a stronger tomorrow for those we serve.

This issue of the *Veterans Journal* highlights NJDMAVA’s work and accomplishments over the last twelve months. As always, thank you for staying connected. We invite you to share ideas, events, and feedback.

Please email our team at [outreach@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:outreach@dmava.nj.gov)

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# Doing more, achieving more

By Vincent Solomeno III, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Administrator of Veterans Affairs for the State of New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is achieving outstanding results for the Garden State Veterans that we serve. Our dedicated team continues to sustain and improve the state-delivered veterans benefits, programs, and services provided to those who have worn the uniform and those who love them.

I am pleased to report on significant improvements in the delivery of care to the Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families who reside at the Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland Veterans Memorial Homes. In 2024, Vineland was awarded an overall five out of five-star rating from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This recognition follows the 2023 award of the five-star rating at Paramus.

Our goal is constant and never-ending improvement in our three homes. Vineland's and Paramus' achievement of five stars, and Menlo Park's clinical deficiency-free inspections in 2024, reflect this progress. In 2025, we will replace every resident bed and mattress, enhance electronic medical records capabilities, and complete the upgrade of medical equipment in each of our homes.

Since the last *Veterans Journal*, NJDMAVA completed the expansion of physical veteran service offices to one in each of our state's twenty-one counties. In 2024, our trained and accredited Veteran Service Officers secured over \$130 million in initial, first-time federal benefits payments to Garden State Veterans. This is a significant achievement.

The State of New Jersey is also taking decisive action to effectively end veteran homelessness. In partnership with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, NJDMAVA is supporting "Bringing Veterans Home." This includes the deployment of street outreach teams to identify unhoused Veterans and case managers to assist those we serve. The program expands access to emergency hotel stays and surges the number of dedicated veteran housing vouchers. Bringing Veterans Home complements the continued work of our Veterans Haven North and South transitional housing facilities. Together, we will make sure that every Veteran has access to stable housing.



Vincent Solomeno III, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, addresses the Veterans Service Council meeting, hosted by American Legion Post 310, in Little Ferry, New Jersey Jan. 15, 2025. Representatives from veteran service organizations such as American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and non-profit organizations such as NJSOS Veterans Stakeholders and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Patterson were in attendance. Representatives discussed various topics for improving the lives of Veterans in New Jersey, such as the Bringing Veterans Home Initiative and legislative priorities. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Derek Vasquez)

In 2025, NJDMAVA will continue capital improvement projects at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. Since 2023, NJDMAVA has invested more than \$1,000,000 in the care, maintenance, and repair of these monuments. For perspective, this is a roughly 300 percent increase in year-to-year expenditure that includes landscaping, cleaning services, upgrades to electrical service, the conversion of light bulbs to LEDs, the replacement of light fixtures and bollards, and other repairs. Our work continues.

As the busiest state-run veterans cemetery in the United States, the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery continues to provide a dignified final resting place for Garden State heroes and eligible dependents. With support from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, we continue to expand the cemetery to ensure the long-term ability to inter those who have given so much in defense of New Jersey and the United States.

New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more for the veteran community than at any time in our history. There will always be more improvements to be made and additional problems to be solved. We are committed to meeting those challenges. This is made possible by the dedicated NJDMAVA team. I am privileged to serve alongside each and every one of them.

# Maj. Gen. Hou bids farewell

From the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey, presents an Army Achievement Medal to a New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier during an awards ceremony at Task Force Redleg in Iraq, June 4-5, 2024. Hou and New Jersey State Command

Sgt. Maj. Mark Leonard, accompanied by Col. Brian Stramaglia, 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, and Command Sgt. Major Kevin Kirkpatrick, met with 44th Soldiers during the visit. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Bruce Daddis)

On July 1, 2024, Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., relinquished her responsibilities as The Adjutant General of New Jersey and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. This was a bittersweet day for Hou, a physician and combat Veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. While Hou is excited about her new role as the Director, Office of the Joint Surgeon General, National Guard Bureau, she will miss her day-to-day work of leading Soldiers and Airmen and delivering state veterans benefits, programs, and services.

"Twenty-nine years ago, when I raised my right hand and swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, my focus was, as it remains today, to support the people of this state and country to the best of my ability," said Hou. "As an officer, to lead, inspire, and protect. As a physician, to diagnose, treat, and heal. This was made possible by the dedicated service of the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard and the devoted civilian staff of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs."

Named to the position by Gov. Philip D. Murphy in October 2020, Hou led her team through some of the most difficult times in state history. During her tenure, the New Jersey National Guard played a leading role in the Garden State's COVID-19 response, deployed to Washington, D.C., following the events of Jan. 6, 2021, and continued the highest operational tempo since World War II.

As Commissioner, Hou served as point person for an unprecedented expansion of state-delivered veterans benefits, programs, and services. Under her leadership, the veterans memorial homes at Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland improved quality of care for residents and embarked upon significant capital improvements that will result in modern, state-of-the-art homes for Garden State Veterans, Veteran spouses, and Gold Star families. She focused on building mental health resilience among service members, Veterans, and their families. She also expanded the interment capacity at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Hou expressed confidence in her successor Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays. Mays was nominated by Murphy and unanimously confirmed by the New Jersey Senate Oct. 28, 2024. She said, "I am confident that she will lead the force and our team with intelligence, integrity, and a deep knowledge of where we have been and where we are going."

"Maj. Gen. Hou leaves big boots to fill," said Mays, who became the third Air Force officer to assume the role of Adjutant General and Commissioner.

"Through the crucible of domestic and overseas challenges, she led with a steady hand. I believe I speak for those in and out of uniform when I offer my heartfelt thank you to her for her many years of service."

# 21 VSOs in 21 Counties

From the State of New Jersey; photo by Derek Vasquez, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



With the opening of the State of New Jersey's Union County Veterans Service Office May 31, 2024, Gov. Philip D. Murphy announced that all New Jersey Veterans and their families now have in-county access to a dedicated State of New Jersey Veterans Service Office, which provide life-changing services through the state and federal government. This opening marks the fulfillment of the Governor's promise to expand the state's VSOs into all 21 counties. The announcement was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

"New Jerseyans who have answered the call to serve deserve our utmost respect and support. By expanding the footprint of our Veterans Service Offices to every New Jersey county, we are ensuring Veterans, and their families have easy access to the state and federal benefits they have earned," said Murphy. "Effective today, New Jersey heroes from Sussex to Cape May Counties can visit their local Veterans Service Office to receive critical access to a wide range of services. It is an honor to make these resources and supports more readily accessible for our Veterans."

"New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more in the area of state-delivered Veterans benefits, programs, and services," said Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., then-Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and The Adjutant General of New Jersey. "The opening of the State of New Jersey Union County Veterans Service Office completes Governor Murphy's initiative to establish a point of entry for service members, Veterans, and their families in each of the Garden State's 21 counties. Expanding access is the cornerstone of our efforts to connect those who have worn the uniform with the benefits that they

have earned through their service to the United States."

Over the course of late 2023 and 2024, NJDMAVA expanded its footprint of offices to Camden, Cape May, Middlesex, Passaic, Salem, Union, and Warren Counties.

With the expansion to Union County, all 21 New Jersey counties are now equipped with an office dedicated to delivering important employment, education, counseling, housing, social, and medical services, providing critical support to Veterans and their families.

"I am proud that the state is opening a veterans service office here in Union County giving our 13,000 Veteran residents direct access to the state and federal benefits they have earned for their commitment to our country," said New Jersey Senate President Nick Scutari. "These regional offices play a vital role helping Veterans and their families identify and qualify for needed services which should always remain our top priority for the men and woman who have served and sacrificed for our country."

"We made it a priority in the budget to expand access to services for our Veterans by bringing resources closer to home for them and their families," said New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin. "We owe our Veterans a tremendous debt. Now, with a Veterans Services Office in every county in New Jersey, the State can coordinate support services in every community in New Jersey. This will provide local help in accessing federal assistance in health care and counseling as well as State programs for affordable housing and Veterans' preference for opportunities in Civil Service employment."

To further increase access to Veterans Service Offices statewide, NJDMAVA established a toll-free number, 1-844-671-1019, which will guide callers to their respective state Veterans Service Officers.

**"Effective today, New Jersey heroes from Sussex to Cape May Counties can visit their local Veterans Service Office to receive critical access to a wide range of services. It is an honor to make these resources and supports more readily accessible for our Veterans."**

**GOV. PHILIP D. MURPHY**

# Working to end Veterans homelessness

From the State of New Jersey; photo by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs held a two-day training session for New Jersey's Bringing Veterans Home initiative to reduce Veterans' homelessness to functional zero at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt March 12-13, 2025.

The Bringing Veterans Home initiative seeks to house all homeless Veterans in the state by July 1, 2026, while strengthening the State's homelessness prevention system so that any newly homeless Veteran can be placed in stable housing within one month.

"Our Veterans have sacrificed so much to uphold our nation's freedom and deserve our deepest gratitude and respect for their service," said Gov. Philip D. Murphy. "Our Administration is committed to providing the many Veterans who call the Garden State home the support and resources they need to thrive. I am grateful to Commissioner Suárez and Brig. Gen. Mays for their continued efforts to ensure every Veteran in New Jersey has a safe and dignified place to call home."

"The Bringing Veterans Home initiative formally unites federal, state, and Veteran service organizations throughout the state in the fight against unsheltered Veteran homelessness," said Jacquelyn A. Suárez, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. "Using this collaborative approach, we will be sheltering our homeless Veterans this year and next, while creating a strategic framework that will carry momentum long into the future."

"Bringing Veterans Home represents a groundbreaking step toward ensuring that no Veteran endures the hardship of homelessness," said Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, Commissioner, NJDMAVA, and The Adjutant General of New Jersey. "Thanks to Gov. Murphy, the legislature, the NJDCA and NJDMAVA teams and so many passionate volunteers throughout the entire state, we are in a position to effectively end Veteran homelessness."

The Bringing Veterans Home initiative coordinates efforts between NJDCA's Office of Homelessness Prevention, NJDMAVA, federal partners at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and multiple Veterans service organizations. This combined effort will ensure the State can reach its goal to house 300 Veterans within the next 180 days and reach functional zero by July 1, 2026.

More than \$30 million in State and federal funds have been committed to support these services and interventions over the span of two years, to place more than 1,000 homeless New Jersey Veterans into stable housing. Services and interventions include Veterans Affairs Supported Housing vouchers and other rental assistance, the State's

Veterans Haven transitional housing facilities, and Supportive Services for Veterans and families programs.

Additionally, the initiative will expand homelessness diversion, rapid rehousing, street outreach, emergency sheltering, and permanent housing voucher programs to more rapidly achieve housing stabilization for all program-eligible Veterans.

"Success requires collaboration," said Michael Callahan, Director, Office of Homelessness Prevention, NJDCA. "This training event shared key insights on veteran homelessness through data analysis and interviews with people who've experienced it firsthand. This knowledge sharing helps us meet our goal."



Attendees watch a video where a former homeless Veteran describes his experience with the Bringing Veterans Home initiative during the opening ceremony for the Bringing Veterans Home kick-off and training event at the Regional Training Institute at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, New Jersey, March 12, 2025.

"We appreciate the support from all community partners involved in this effort in ending veteran homelessness," said Dr. Matt Morris, Interim Director, Wilmington VA Medical Center. "One homeless Veteran is one too many, we want to make sure all Veterans are receiving the VA services they've earned."

NJDCA offers a wide range of programs and services, including local government management and finance, affordable housing production, fire safety, building safety, community planning and development, disaster recovery and mitigation, historic preservation, and information privacy.

NJDMAVA provides highly trained, professional, and ready forces – prepared for rapid response to various civil and military operations – while providing exemplary

services to New Jersey service members, Veterans, and their families.

For more information about NJDMAVA, visit <https://www.nj.gov/military/>.

**"BRINGING VETERANS HOME REPRESENTS A GROUNDBREAKING STEP TOWARD ENSURING THAT NO VETERAN ENDURES THE HARDSHIP OF HOMELESSNESS."**

**U.S. AIR FORCE BRIG. GEN. YVONNE L. MAYS**  
COMMISSIONER  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

# Vineland Veterans Home awarded five star rating

By the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

In November 2024, the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland was awarded an overall five-star rating from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This important achievement reflects the hard work of the home's dedicated healthcare heroes and is the result of positive findings from independent health inspections, staffing levels and resident-level quality measures of clinical care. This recognition follows the 2023 award of the five-star rating to the Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus.

"Five out of five stars is where we want to be," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Yvonne L. Mays, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "I congratulate and offer my personal thanks to everyone – the staff, volunteers, and families – who dedicate their time, talent, and energy to ensuring that Vineland is a safe and welcoming community for the Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families who call our facility home."

Health inspection ratings are based upon the three most recent surveys, or inspections, conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health on behalf of CMS. Vineland had two health citations. New Jersey's average is 7.9, while the national average is 9.6. In the most recent infection control inspection, which occurred on June 8, 2024, no health deficiencies were found.

The staffing rating is based upon the number of nursing hours per resident per day and the number of registered nurse hours per resident per day. The quality measure rating is informed by individual resident health status in multiple care areas. For example, weight for residents is tracked as an individual quality measure, routinely reviewed by NJDMAVA's quality assurance teams, and informs this important benchmark of facility performance.

In Vineland's case, the total number of nurse staff hours per resident per day was five hours and 11 minutes compared to the national average of three hours and 50 minutes.

The quality measures star rating measures parts of nursing home performance in certain areas of care, such as whether residents received their flu shots or have signs of depression. The percentage of long-stay residents who received a flu shot was 98.4 percent. For residents getting the pneumonia vaccine it was 99.9 percent. The percentage of long-stay residents who have symptoms of depression was 1.3 percent compared to the national average of 9.1 percent.

The percentage of Vineland residents with pressure



ulcers/pressure injuries that are new or worsened was zero percent – the national average is 2.4 percent. Pressure ulcers can cause complications like a reduction in mobility and infections. The Vineland staff recognize which residents are at higher risk, ensuring frequent changes in their position, providing proper nutrition, and using specialized beds to reduce pressure on the skin.

"Vineland's and Paramus' achievement of an overall five star rating, and Menlo Park's clinical deficiency-free surveys in 2024, reflect a deliberate process of assessment and improvement begun by my predecessor," said Mays.

The Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland also achieved zero deficiencies in a no-notice infection control survey June 8, 2024. The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park and Paramus achieved

zero deficiencies in two separate no-notice focused infection control surveys conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health on behalf of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The surveys occurred Sept. 5, 2024 and Sept. 10, 2024.

"I am so pleased with the progress that has been documented by CMS, DOH, and in other inspections conducted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs," said Mays. "Here at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, we are committed to constant and never-ending improvement in our three homes."

**"HERE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONSTANT AND NEVER-ENDING IMPROVEMENT IN OUR THREE HOMES."**

**U.S. AIR FORCE BRIG. GEN. YVONNE L. MAYS  
COMMISSIONER  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

# NJDMAVA continues capital improvement at war memorials

Story and photos by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

In 2025, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs continues capital improvement projects at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial; the New Jersey Korean War Memorial; and the New Jersey World War II Memorial.

"Since 2023, NJDMAVA has invested more than \$1,000,000 in the care, maintenance, and repair of these monuments," said Vincent Solomeno III, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and Administrator of Veterans Affairs for the State of New Jersey.

"For perspective, this is a roughly 300 percent increase in year-to-year expenditure that includes landscaping, cleaning services, upgrades to electrical service, the conversion of light bulbs to LEDs, the replacement of light fixtures and bollards, and other repairs," said Solomeno.

NJDMAVA's recent commitment to revitalizing the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial – located in Holmdel – includes electrical and masonry work. Electrical maintenance includes the replacement of bollard light fixtures, wall pack light fixtures, in-ground light fixtures, light pole lighting enhancements, solar lighting projects, and other outdoor electrical repairs. In addition, the stonework surrounding the ground light fixtures have been reorganized to accommodate the new light fixtures.

"The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum,



*Mementos left in front of a black granite panel, part of the wall that lists all New Jersey service members who died in Vietnam at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Holmdel, New Jersey, Nov. 11, 2019. The memorial is oriented so that the May Seventh panel, the day the war ended, points toward Vietnam.*

the only site of its kind in the nation, works in partnership with our friends at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs," said Amy Osborn, CEO, New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum. "We look forward to our continuing relationship and working together to make sure that America's heroes are honored and those who made the ultimate sacrifice are never forgotten."

Both the New Jersey Korean War Memorial and the New Jersey World War II Memorial have benefitted from this funding.

The New Jersey Korean War Memorial – located on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City – requires additional maintenance due to the salt air from the Atlantic Ocean. This includes steam cleaning and power washing the memorial structure, cleaning and waxing the statues, and replacing the flags.

The Battlefield Marker sculpture, also known as a Battlefield Cross, at the New Jersey World War II Memorial in Trenton was repaired after having been vandalized. In addition, a fence was placed around it and a security camera was installed at the memorial.

NJDMAVA is charged with the sacred duty of ensuring that the sacrifices made by New Jersey's Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Space Guardians, and Coast Guardsmen, are never forgotten. These memorials are maintained so that future generations know the price of freedom. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated: "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."



*The New Jersey Korean War Memorial, which was created to honor the 191,000 New Jerseyans who served in the conflict, was dedicated on Nov. 13, 2000, and stands where Park Place meets the Boardwalk on land donated by Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Memorial includes a wall listing all New Jerseyans who died in the war and several statues, including the 12-foot-high "Mourning Soldier" who is clutching several dog tags and remembering his lost comrades.*

# Vineland residents get early Valentine's Day



Members of the Hammonton Canoe Club distributed handmade Valentine's cards – each with a crocheted heart – to residents at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland at Vineland, New Jersey, Feb. 13, 2025. The Canoe Club is located in Hammonton, New Jersey. Club volunteers delivered more than 200 cards for the residents. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Mark C. Olsen)



# Governor's Veterans Council joins fight to end veteran homelessness

From the State of New Jersey; photo by Derek Vasquez, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



The Governor's Veterans Services Council met in January at American Legion Post 310 in Little Ferry, New Jersey, Jan. 15, 2025. The meeting included representatives from local and statewide veterans service organizations and focused on Bringing Veterans Home, the state's initiative to effectively end veteran homelessness in the Garden State.

"This is a chance to talk with key stakeholders on how we are moving forward on veterans services and support," said Sophia Dmoch, a U.S. Army Veteran and the council's chairperson. "Between legislative work and private organizations, there is a lot underway."

Dmoch assumed the duties of chair in the fall of 2024. The all-volunteer 12-member council, appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the New Jersey Senate, was established in 1947 and is among state government's oldest advisory bodies. The council, which typically meets monthly, will also conduct quarterly meetings in different regions of the state throughout 2025, giving Veterans a better chance at attending and offering input and feedback.

"When it comes to supporting those currently serving, those who have served, and those who love them, New Jersey is investing more, doing more, and achieving more than at any time in our history," said Vincent Solomeno III, Administrator and Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "The work of veterans organizations is a testament to their selfless service and our state is blessed to have an active council speaking on their behalf."

At the meeting, Solomeno briefed the details of Bringing Veterans Home, the interagency initiative led by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and NJDMAVA. Applying evidenced-based lessons learned from other states and more than \$30 million in state funds, the initiative aims to achieve

functional zero for veteran homelessness by July 1, 2026. Managed by NJDCA's Office of Homelessness Prevention, Bringing Veterans Home deploys regional street outreach teams to identify unhoused Veterans, social workers to provide case management, capacity for rapid rehousing, and a surge of vouchers dedicated to former service members.

"Our goal is ensuring that every Garden State hero is assured stable housing," Solomeno added. "There is much work ahead, but I know that we will achieve functional zero through the leadership and collaboration of the Veterans Services Council and our state's many veterans service organizations."

For more information on Bringing Veterans Home, please visit [https://nj.gov/dca/news/news/2024/approved/20241121\\_c.shtml](https://nj.gov/dca/news/news/2024/approved/20241121_c.shtml).

**"THIS IS A CHANCE TO TALK WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON HOW WE ARE MOVING FORWARD ON VETERANS SERVICES AND SUPPORT."**

**SOPHIA DMOCH  
CHAIRPERSON, NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S  
VETERANS SERVICES COUNCIL**

# Memorial Homes install PPE storage units

By the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

The New Jersey Veterans Memorial homes at Menlo Park, Paramus, and Vineland each received a 2,500-square-foot climate-controlled storage unit to stockpile personal protective equipment in 2024.

The climate-controlled units were built with \$869,000 in federal Veterans Administration State Home Construction grants. They are located outside of the three homes to maximize space for residents within the homes while maintaining ready supplies in an event such as an epidemic or pandemic.

Each unit contains an eight-week supply of PPE. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs maintains an additional home's worth eight-week supply of PPE at the NJDMAVA Lawrenceville campus, which exceeds the DOH requirement of having an eight-week supply of PPE available.



**This Personal Protective Equipment Storage Unit is located at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Paramus, New Jersey. Similar units are located at the Menlo Park and Vineland Homes. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Derek Vasquez)**

# Veteran suicide seminar held at CCM

Story and photos by Derek Vasquez New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

A packed room of clergy, community leaders, law enforcement officers, and others attended a suicide prevention seminar at the County College of Morris on March 5, 2024. The seminar was led by New Jersey SOS Veterans Stakeholders Group and supported by funds from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs through a grant that supports the ongoing efforts of the *Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families*.

This event fostered an open dialogue and engaged in discussion on the topic of Veteran suicide. Attendees learned about local resources available to Veterans in crisis, heard from community leaders, the VA Suicide Prevention Team, and fellow Veterans.



Above: Esther Chucaralao, director, Veterans Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, speaks on a panel at the Veteran Suicide Awareness Seminar held at the County College of Morris in Randolph, New Jersey, March 5, 2024. Left and below: guest speakers John Krickus, Director of the Morris County Board of Commissioners, and Emerson Crooks, a Marine Corps Veteran, address the seminar attendees.



## SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, agitation, or hopelessness
- Sleeping either all the time or not much at all
- Not caring about their appearance or what happens to them
- Pulling away from friends, family, and society
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, school, or other things they used to care about
- Expressing feelings of excessive guilt or shame, failure, lack of purpose in life, or being trapped
- Performing poorly at work or school
- Acting violently or taking risks – like driving fast or running red lights
- Doing things to prepare for a suicide: like giving away special personal items, making a will, or seeking access to guns or pills



# 42,000 FLAGS



More than 1,000 New Jersey Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, and family members placed more than 42,000 American flags on graves at the Brigadier General

William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown, New Jersey, May 24, 2024. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Mark C. Olsen)



# MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY HONORS NEW JERSEY'S FALLEN



Left to right: New Jersey Gov. Philip D. Murphy; Maj. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Col. Yvonne L. Mays, Deputy Adjutant General; Congressman Andy Kim, 3rd District, New Jersey; New Jersey State Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeffrey T. Angle, New Jersey State Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Leonard, and New Jersey State Command Chief Master Sgt. Wayne R. Miller watch as a U.S. Navy Sailor and a U.S. Army Soldier present the State wreath during the annual State Memorial Day ceremony at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, New Jersey, May 25, 2024. The Cemetery, dedicated in 1986, is New Jersey's sole state-operated veterans' cemetery and is managed by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is the final resting place for more than 88,900 Veterans and family members. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)

# Governor's Challenge expands efforts, continues training

By Sam Hayes, Division of Veterans Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Leaders of the *Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families* program have intensified their approach and collaboration efforts. Key developments include:

- Focused Action Plans: For lethal means safety, crisis intervention, and community engagement
  - Faith-based and Community-based Partnerships: To ensure training reaches underserved populations, we have formed new partnerships with churches, religious institutions, and grassroots organizations that interact with at-risk Veterans and their families
  - Increased Outreach to Veteran-centered Locations: Engagement at Veteran organizations homeless shelters, churches, and hospitals
  - Integration of Unite New Jersey Veterans: As each new partner is added, they are onboarded into a digital referral system, enhancing real-time care coordination and ensuring that Veterans in crisis are connected to mental health, housing, and emergency support services
  - Partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within its Suicide Mortality Review initiative to:
    - Analyze veteran suicide cases and identify systemic gaps in prevention efforts
    - Develop data-driven strategies to enhance crisis response and intervention
    - Integrate healthcare providers, law enforcement, and veteran organizations in a multidisciplinary review process
- This Suicide Mortality Review aligns with national best practices and positions New Jersey as a leader in the use of real-time data analysis to prevent veteran suicides.
- The Governor's Challenge remains committed to ensuring service members, Veterans, and their families receive the support they deserve.
- The Governor's Challenge enters its fifth year with record

participation in mental health initiatives and an expanded focus to establish partnerships, particularly with faith-based organizations.

In 2024, the Governor's Challenge partnered with the New Jersey Hospital Association and completed 42 Mental Health First Aid Training. More than 500 individuals from each of the state's 21 counties completed this day-long, no-cost training. In 2025, the Governor's Challenge will convene additional trainings targeted toward front-line faith leaders likely to encounter individuals in crisis.

"The Governor's Challenge is firing on all cylinders," said Vincent Solomeno III, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. "This is made possible by the active participation and leadership of our public, private, and non-profit partners. We will continue to be laser focused on providing New Jersey the tools to prevent suicide and help the most vulnerable among us."

Due to increased demand and strong partnerships, MHFA training courses will exceed the 2024 training frequency for the second iteration of this program, which will close out in September 2025.

NJDMAVA is moving to identify at-risk Veterans and promote connectedness in our communities. Together with the New Jersey Hospital Association, NJDMAVA has taken direct action, working with local leaders and training veteran service officers who are most likely to encounter individuals in crisis to provide support.

To expand accessibility, NJHA-certified instructors have begun conducting training sessions on weekends, allowing more community leaders, faith-based groups, and first responders to participate.

For more information, to receive assistance, or to get involved, please visit: <https://www.nj.gov/military/savenjvets/>.

# New counseling resources in north Jersey

From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans to add a new Vet Center Outstation to expand access to care in Warren and Morris Counties. This new Vet Center Outstation will be in Hackettstown, with the exact opening date and location to be determined. In addition, the VA will soon add a Vet Center Community Access Point in Morristown.

"This was the result of the hard work and advocacy of a coalition of Veterans, community leaders and elected officials," said Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Chair of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families. "Our state team, including our Veterans Service Officers throughout northern New Jersey, are so excited about this expanded access to counseling and mental health services."

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including no-cost professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, and their families. Services include counseling for needs such as depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma. Vet Centers also provide referrals to connect Veterans with their VA health care or benefits. In Fiscal Year 2023, more than 115,000 Veterans, service members, and their families received counseling at the VA's more than 300 Vet Centers nationwide.

The VA has also approved the Vineland Vet Center Outstation, which is in the leasing phase with the anticipated opening date to be announced. New Jersey's five Vet Centers are located in Bloomfield, Egg Harbor Township, Ewing, Lakewood, and Secaucus.

# Missing no more: Lopa laid to rest after 74 years

By Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office

Seventy-four years ago, U.S. Army Pfc. Anthony John Lopa was getting ready to support Operation Manchu in South Korea.

The 17 year-old from North Arlington, New Jersey, was assigned to Delta Battery, 82nd Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons (Self-Propelled) Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division. The 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division was preparing to sneak across to the western bank of the Naktong River, Aug. 31, 1950, with orders to destroy enemy material, capture enemy personnel and documents.

night closed in, D Battery reported heavy losses in equipment, as well as two officers and 44 Soldiers missing in action, including Pfc. Lopa."

This would later be known as the Second Battle of the Naktong Bulge.

Due to the intense fighting in the region, his body could not be recovered at that time.

A set of remains was recovered near Amp'yong, South Korea, in March 1951. They could not be initially identified and were designated X-2023 C Tanggok and buried in the United Nations Cemetery Tanggok. In August 1951, the Central Identification Unit Kokura in Japan began a reexamination of X-2023 C. They made several attempts between then and August 1954 before ultimately declaring the remains unidentifiable. All 848 unidentified sets of Korean War remains at CIU-Kokura were sent to Hawaii in 1956 where they were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

"I never got to meet him, but my mom always asked me to remember him and to find him," said Domitrowski.

In July 2018, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl. In May 2021, the DPAA disinterred Unknown X-2023 C as part of Phase Two of the Korean War Disinterment Project and sent the remains to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.



Retired U.S. Army Master Sgt. Richard Platt, left, New Jersey Army National Guard Honor Guard, presents Kelly Domitrowski an American flag during the funeral for her uncle, Army Pfc. Anthony J. Lopa, Delta Battery, 82nd Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons (Self-Propelled) Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, New Jersey, June 28, 2024. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Michael Schwenk)

"D Battery was ordered to provide fire support to that raiding force," said Kelly Domitrowski, niece of Pfc. Lopa. "D Battery had moved two sections down to the Naktong River, establishing fire positions to support the friendly raid."

Domitrowski spoke during the Korean Armistice ceremony held at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City July 26, 2024.

"As the various elements of the U.S. attacking and supporting forces started to move on their respective positions, they had no idea just across the river, enemy forces were massing a large scale offensive across the large portion of the front," said Domitrowski.

Without any warning, the North Korean troops attacked. According to regimental chaplain Capt. Lewis B. Sheen: "Our calm was shattered by enemy artillery and mortar barrage, which continued to 0100 hours. The air above us was solid with singing lead for over two hours."

"The two sections were overrun," said Domitrowski. "As

To identify Lopa's remains, DPAA scientists used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparison and circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis.

On July 21, 2023, Lopa's remains were identified. The DPAA made his accounting public April 5, 2024.

Lopa was laid to rest with full military honors at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown June 28, 2024.

Lopa's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

To this day, 7,466 Americans remained unaccounted for from the Korean War.

"I'm so happy that we were able to find him and put him to rest after 74 years," said Domitrowski.

# WOMEN VETERANS HONORED AT CEREMONY



*New Jersey state medal recipients have their photo taken after the New Jersey State Medals Ceremony at the Wildwood Convention Center in Wildwood, New Jersey, May 31, 2024. Twenty-two female Veterans were awarded medals during the Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars annual convention. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)*

# Medal ceremonies honor Veterans

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Above: New Jersey state medal recipients have their photo taken at the Woodbridge Center Mall in Woodbridge, New Jersey, Feb. 21, 2025. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen) Top right: State medal recipients at the Moorestown Mall in Moorestown, New Jersey, Jan. 16, 2025. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Derek Vasquez) Middle right: Medal recipients have their photo taken after the ceremony at the John W. Lupo American Legion Post #306 in Middlesex, New Jersey, Sept. 20, 2024. Bottom right: State medal recipients have their photo taken at the Four Seasons in Galloway, New Jersey, Aug. 12, 2024. Bottom left: Medal recipients have their photo taken at the Communities of Concordia – Veterans Club in Monroe Township, New Jersey, May 9, 2024. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Mark C. Olsen)



# A TRIBUTE TO RAY ZAWACKI

By Vincent Solomeno III, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Raymond L. Zawacki, former Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and New Jersey Administrator of Veterans Affairs, died on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. A U.S. Navy Veteran, Ray dedicated his life to the service of Garden State service members, Veterans, and their families.

I had the privilege of working beside Ray when I was a young Army lieutenant. Under his leadership, we preserved and interpreted the rich history of service of those who answered our nation's call to serve in the United States Armed Forces. I served with him on the committee that designed the Patriot's Corner memorial inside the New Jersey State House. I was struck then by his leadership, kindness, accessibility, and commitment to delivering state



veterans benefits, programs, and services. I never once imagined that I would step into the same shoes he wore as Deputy Commissioner and Administrator. For me, he was and remains a model of how the job should be done.

Ray was nominated by Governor Chris Christie to serve as Deputy Commissioner and Administrator in May

2010. He was unanimously confirmed to the position by the New Jersey Senate. He began his career of service to Garden State Veterans on January 22, 1968 when he was selected to serve as the American Legion Department of New Jersey's full-time state service officer. He went on to serve more than twenty years as the Adjutant for The American Legion – Department of New Jersey. He was also a past Department Commander of the American Legion and chaired the Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home Facility Advisory Council.

The first enlisted service member chosen by a New Jersey Governor to lead veterans affairs, Ray served on active duty from July 27, 1965 to July 26, 1967 aboard the Attack Aircraft Carrier

Ticonderoga (CVA-14). He participated in two Western Pacific deployments for Vietnam combat operations and was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two service stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

Ray served all eight years of the Christie Administration. In retirement, he continued to advocate for and mentor the next generation of Veteran leaders. Like so many, I was privileged to have known him and learned from him. As I reflect upon his lifetime of military and public service, I do so confident in the knowledge that Raymond L. Zawacki's legacy lives on. May he rest in peace.

## VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED AT LUNCHEONS



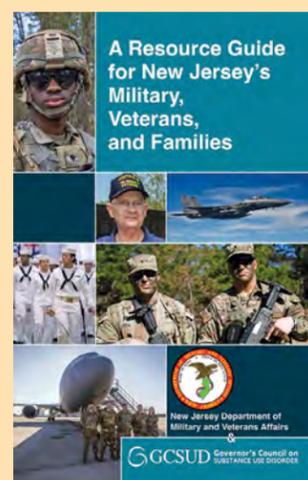
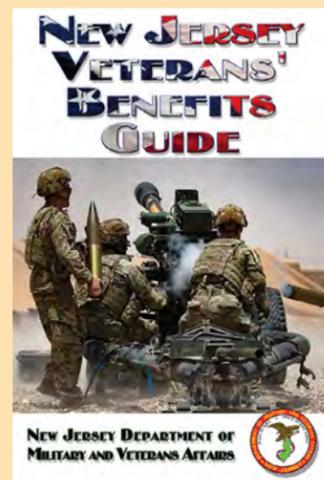
Above: Lisa J. Hou, D.O., Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Vincent Solomeno III, Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, and the staff of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park recognized individuals and organizations at the home's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Edison, New Jersey, April 17, 2024. Top right: The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus honored volunteers and groups at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey, April 19, 2024. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Derek Vasquez) Right: The staff of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland recognized volunteers and organizations at the home's Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in Pittsgrove, New Jersey, April 24, 2024. (Courtesy photo by Bart Feldman)



## ONLINE ACCESS

Access a variety of New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs publications online!

Check out the New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide; the Governor's Council on Substance Disorder Resource Guide for New Jersey's Military, Veterans and Families; and the New Jersey Veterans Transportation Guide at: [www.nj.gov/military/veterans/](http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/)



# Wreaths Across America

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photos by Derek Vasquez



More than 400 volunteers, including New Jersey Wing, Civil Air Patrol Cadets; Lakewood High School Army Junior ROTC cadets, along with Boy and Girl Scouts placed 3,000 wreaths on gravestones during a Wreaths Across America Ceremony

at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown, New Jersey, Dec. 14, 2024. The wreath laying was part of 4,200 nationwide Wreaths Across America Day ceremonies.



# VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

**State Supervisors Main Numbers**  
**1-(844) 671-1019**  
 or  
**(609) 671-3500**

**Atlantic Veterans Service Office**  
**Atlantic City National Guard Armory**  
 1008 Absecon Boulevard  
 Atlantic City, NJ 08401  
 (609) 671-3505 / 3506

**Bergen Veterans Service Office**  
 Suite #109, 125 State Street  
 Hackensack, NJ 07601-5435  
 (609) 671-3510 / 3511

**Bordentown Veterans Service Office**  
**Joint Military & Family Assistance Center**  
 1048 US Highway 206 South  
 Bordentown, NJ 08505  
 (609) 671-2005

**Burlington Veterans Service Office**  
 Suite #6A, 555 High Street  
 Mt Holly, NJ 08060  
 (609) 671-3515 / 3516

**Camden Veterans Service Office**  
**Governor James J. Florio Center for Public Service Building**  
 Suite 146, 200 Federal Street  
 Camden, NJ 08103  
 (609) 671-3520 / 3521

**Cape May Veterans Service Office**  
**National Guard Armory**  
 600 Garden State Parkway  
 Cape May Court House, NJ 08210  
 (609) 671-3525 / 3526

**Cumberland Veterans Service Office**  
**New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland**  
 524 N. West Boulevard  
 Vineland NJ 08360  
 (609) 671-3530 / 3531

**East Orange Veterans Service Office**  
**East Orange VA Medical Center**  
 Room 3-214, 385 Tremont Avenue  
 East Orange, NJ 07018  
 (973) 676-1000, Ext. 202377

**Essex Veterans Service Office**  
**Newark Liaison Office**  
**Newark VA Regional Office**  
 Room 439, 20 Washington Place  
 Newark, NJ 07102-3174  
 (609) 671-3535 / 3536

**Essex Veterans Service Office**  
 Newark City Hall  
 Room B-13, 920 Broad Street  
 Newark, NJ 07102  
 (973) 424-1968

**Gloucester Veterans Service Office**  
**Woodbury National Guard Armory**  
 658 N Evergreen Avenue  
 Woodbury, NJ 08096  
 (609) 671-3540 / 3542

**Hudson Veterans Service Office**  
**Jersey City National Guard Armory**  
 Room 6, 2nd Floor  
 678 Montgomery Street  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 (609) 671-3545 / 3546

**Hunterdon Veterans Service Office**  
**Veterans Haven North**  
 200 Sanatorium Road  
 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826  
 (609) 671-3550 / 3551

**Mercer Veterans Service Office**  
**National Guard Armory**  
 Room #136, 151 Eggerts Crossing Road  
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
 (609) 671-3555 / 3556

**Middlesex Veterans Service Office**  
**National Guard Armory**  
 625 Main Street  
 Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
 (609) 671-3560 / 3561

**Monmouth Veterans Service Office**  
 Suite #320, 630 Bangs Avenue  
 Asbury Park, NJ 07712  
 (609) 671-3565 / 3566

**Morris Veterans Service Office**  
**National Guard Armory**  
 479 W Clinton Street  
 Dover, NJ 07801  
 (609) 671-3570 / 3571

**Ocean Veterans Service Office**  
**Toms River VA Clinic**  
 Room #1213, 1055 Hooper Avenue  
 Toms River, NJ 08754  
 (609) 671-3575 / 3576

**Passaic Veterans Service Office**  
**Passaic County Administration Building**  
 Room 113b, 401 Grand Street  
 Paterson, NJ 07505  
 (609) 671-3580 / 3581

**Salem Veterans Service Office**  
 90 Market Street  
 Salem NJ 08079  
 (609) 671-3586 / 3585

**Somerset Veterans Service Office**  
**National Guard Armory**  
 1060 Hamilton Street  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
 (609) 671-3590 / 3591

**Sussex Veterans Service Office**  
**Catholic Family & Community Services**  
 48 Wyker Road  
 Franklin, NJ 07416  
 (609) 671-3571

**Union Veterans Service Office**  
 652-654 Rahway Avenue  
 Union NJ 07083  
 (609) 671-3595 / 3596

**Warren Veterans Service Office**  
**Port Murray Armory**  
 550 NJ-57 South  
 Port Murray, NJ 07865  
 (609) 671-3598 / 3599

**For more information call**  
**toll-free 1-888-865-8387**  
**or online at:**

<https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>

**NJDMAVA VSO**



# Veterans Day



**U.S. Air Force Col. Yvonne L. Mays, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, addresses the audience during the State Veterans Day ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Holmdel, New Jersey, Nov. 11, 2024. Veterans Day celebrates and honors America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. (New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs photo by Mark C. Olsen)**