

Veterans Voice

MARCH 2023

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, 132 Evergreen Road , Edison, NJ 08818 732-452-4100



The Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) donated \$15,912.00 to purchase a new Bingo machine and an Omnicycle for the Rehabilitation Gym



Carmine Zulli celebrated his 100th Birthday with family and friends.



Michelle Prunty, STPA on National Puzzle Day with Residents Francis DeGulis and Victor Schettino.

CEO's Message

Lisa Kranis, LNHA, MPA CDP
Chief Executive Officer



I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself, my name is Lisa Kranis, CEO. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of our residents, families and staff over the past couple of months. Here is a little bit about my background. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Health Care Administration. I received my Nursing Home Administrator License (LNHA) in 2004. I have lead facilities in both the for-profit and non-profit arena, running long term care, assisted living, independent living and post-acute rehabilitation. I have a progressive track record of success in turn around operations, deficiency free surveys, cost containment, quality of care, excellence in both customer service, employee relations and team building. I serve you in honor of my late father, Marinus Lalumia, a very proud United States Marine Corps Veteran, I am very excited to serve those who have served our country.

I reside in Randolph with my husband of 31 years Jeff, our 2 children, Alexander and Jordyn and our dog Bella.



Gerard Fernandez made a generous donation in memory of WWII Disabled Veteran George Vosseler for the renovation of the Resident Library.

Resident Council News

Our Resident Council Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in Town Square. At times, additional meetings are scheduled to inform you of urgent information. Resident Council provides a formal line of communication between Residents and the Administrative staff. We share information on what is going on in the home from our perspective. Administration needs to know those areas in which our needs are or are not being met. It is important to attend these meetings to hear important information about the home as well as to voice our concerns.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can speak with your Resident Council Unit Representative to bring concerns to the meeting. Each unit has a Representative (or two).

Happy Birthday

100! GEORGE ENGLAND	3/02
GAYTON ESPOSITO	3/02
ELIZABETH CARBONE	3/08
JOSEPH PAPA	3/11
DOMINICK PEZZELLO	3/16
JAMES DIGGS	3/17
JOHN LIPTAK	3/19
DORIS LUBOWICKI	3/20
CLYDE SERVIS	3/20
JOHN WINANS	3/21
ANNE FALK	3/25
RICHARD IUDICE	3/25
RICHARD PENDER	3/26
WILLIAM PHILLIPS	3/28
LEONARD SHOCKLEY	3/28
100! EUGENIA PEROVICH	3/30
OLGA BARNISH	3/31

CENSUS

WWII
Men- 15 Women- 0

Korea
Men- 47 Women- 0

Vietnam
Men- 59 Women- 3

Gulf
Men- 1 Women- 0

Peacetime
Men- 21 Women- 1

Veteran Spouse
Women- 39



Jerry Luna,
Resident Council President & Eagle Unit Representative



William O'Hara
Freedom Unit



James Hauck,
Resident Council
Vice President
& Independence Unit
Representative



Peter Insalaco
Independence Unit
Representative



Mary Ann Vullo
Liberty Unit Representative



John Prebula
Liberty Unit Representative



James Crowley
Eagle Unit Representa-

We look forward to working with administration and all of the Residents of the Home to make this the most wonderful place to live. Be sure to join us for our next meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023 in Town Square.

Chaplain Chats

Dr. Rev. Glory Thomas
 NJVMH– Menlo Park Chaplain

Since I began my work as your chaplain nine months ago, I have had the privilege of meeting most of you in person, listening to some of the joys and concerns, and provide spiritual and emotional support to residents and families in times of such needs. I am grateful to all of you for accepting my visits, sharing of your memories of the good times and not-so-good times. You have enriched my life in more ways than I can explain in a few words. I look forward to spending more time with you as time goes on.



Dr. Rev. Glory Thomas

Photo: Paul Congiusta, I.T.

We have many religious activities that you can participate regardless of your religious upbringing and prior affiliations. Worship services are conducted at 1:15 pm every Sunday in the Town Square which is open to all. You can join the worship services either in person or through your TV channel 3. A Catholic Mass is conducted at 1:15 pm every Monday in the Town Square. (If you are unable to attend the mass in person, and would like to receive communion in your room, please let me know by Monday morning at 10 am so that arrangements can be made). Very recently, we have started a Bible study hour with the chaplain. The Bible study is held at 10 am every Wednesday in the chapel and is open to all (no prior knowledge or familiarity with the Bible is required).

Besides these weekly programs, we also conduct memorial services every quarter to celebrate and memorialize our residents who have claimed their eternal homes. It is a time for everyone to come together not only to celebrate the accomplishments of those who have journeyed ahead of us, but also to find closures and provide support to their families who often attend the service.

I am open to new ideas and suggestions to improve the quality of pastoral care that you are receiving at this facility. My doors are open (knock, please!) to you always and if you cannot make the trip to the chaplain's office, you may call extension x 4260 to reach me.

Blessings,
 Chaplain Glory

Special Religious Services & Programs

Christian Service
 Sundays
 1:00 pm in Town Square

Bible Study
 Wednesdays
 10:00 am in the Chapel

Jewish Services
 Fridays
 11:00 am in the Chapel

March 6
 1:15 pm Roman Catholic Mass

March 13
 1:15 pm Roman Catholic Mass

March 20
 1:15 pm Roman Catholic Mass

March 27
 1:15 pm Roman Catholic Mass

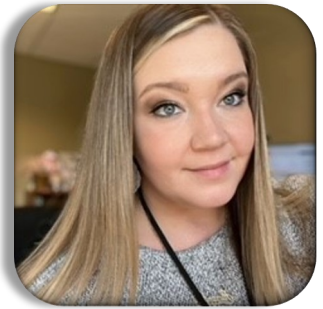
In Remembrance

Love Lives On

Those we love are never really lost to us - we feel them in so many special ways - through friends they always cared about and dreams they left behind, in beauty that they added to our days... in words of wisdom we still carry with us and memories that never will be gone... Those we love are never really lost to us - For everywhere their special love lives on.

Activities in Action

Alexandria Warren, CTRS, CMDCP
Assistant Supervisor of Recreation



Spring is in the air, especially with this mild winter we have had. Spring officially begins on March 20th. With spring comes daylight savings time, don't forget to "Spring Ahead" and turn your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 12th. We have many activities and trips planned for the season.

We are kicking off the month with Read Across America Day on March 2nd with our first meeting of the Menlo Park Book Club. The meeting will be at 10:00 am in the Library and will be a planning meeting to get us started. It's a great way to observe this day and Dr. Suess's Birthday by diving into some great books. Friday, March 17th is St. Patrick's Day where everyone is Irish for the day. Be sure to wear green and join our festive activities! Michael Hannigan will continue his annual tradition of playing the bagpipes in the morning in Town Square at 10:00 am. In the afternoon, we will be entertained by Brian Szura, the Irish Fiddler at 2:00 pm in Town Square. We will continue to have our Monday night, Tuesday & Thursday afternoon bingos with a few extra mixed in from our generous organizations. We have Larry Alter, Angela, Joe Paris, Keith Franklin, Lou B, Al & Deb and Everything Good scheduled this month to entertain you, be sure to check the calendar for days and times.

We have many trips coming up this month including lunch at D'Italia's, Carteret AL Spaghetti Dinner, Lunch & Bingo at Lakehurst VFW and Edison AL Post 435, and the Wind Creek and Parx Casinos, just to name a few. Trip sign up is done through your Recreation Assistant two weeks prior to the upcoming month. Be sure to see your Recreation Assistant if you would like to go on trips.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for activities or trips, please join us at our Monthly Activity Planning Meeting held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in Town Square. This month's meeting is on March 8th, 2023.

The barber/beautician will now be providing services Mondays and Wednesdays as a trial to see if there is a need for 2 days per week. If you would like to make an appointment for a haircut or beautician services, please stop by my office or let your Recreation Assistant know and I will be happy to make an appointment for you. Families may call me at 732-452-4159 to make an appointment for your loved one.

The Recreation Department is here to provide assistance with your leisure needs. We work directly with the NJ State Library for the Blind and Xavier Society to provide audio books for Residents wishing to use this service. These audio books are not exclusively for visually impaired individuals. There are other circumstances for someone to qualify for the service such as not being able to hold a book to read. If you would like to inquire about receiving audio books, please see me or your Recreation Assistant to start the process.



MENLO PARK SNAP SHOT



In honor of Black History Month, Victor Marshall visited our home with a musical presentation on Percussion through Africa. The presentation was very educational and entertaining. Resident Ron Wieder enjoyed it so much he came up and tried some of the instruments.



Residents enjoyed a nostalgic lunch at the Skylark Diner in Edison. They enjoyed classic diner food including milkshakes and sang happy birthday to Tony for his 100th Birthday. Thank you to Karen Shanley, STPA for making this trip so memorable.



Residents were honored by the Quilts of Valor organization in January with a presentation of beautifully handmade quilts.

The quilts were made by members of the Turtle Creek Peacemakers. Each quilt was handcrafted by three people from the tri-state area. Residents were humbled by the gratitude shown during the presentation.





NJ VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT MENLO PARK
MARCH 2023 MAIN STREET ACTIVITIES



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Location Key: AD - Archway Deck/ Dining Room WE - Water Edge Dining Room TS - Town Square CH - Chapel</p> <p><i>All Activities Subject to Change</i></p>			<p>1 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 10:00 Bible Study w/ Rev. Glory, CH 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:30 TRIP: Walharts 1:30 Menu Planning Meeting, WE 2:00 MUSIC: George England's 100th Birthday Celebration with Larry Alter, TS 3:30 Refresh & Reminiscence, TS 7:00 BINGO: CWV 866, WE</p>	<p>2 <i>Read Across America Day</i> 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Menlo Park Book Club, LIB 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 BINGO, WE 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 Ice Cream & Name That Tune, TS</p>	<p>3 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 Jewish Services w/ Cantor Levin, Chapel 2:00 Bowling for Bucks, TS 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 Craft Night, TS</p>	<p>4 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 VISIT: American Red Cross of Central NJ, TS 2:00 BINGO: Masons 3:30 Card Games, TS</p>
<p>5 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:00 Christian Service, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Angela, TS 3:30 The Good Old Days Reminiscing, TS</p>	<p>6 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Brain Games, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:15 Catholic Mass, TS 2:00 Music w/ Barbara & Brownies A La Modes, TS 2:00 Zoom History w/ Don, Ch. 13 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 BINGO, WE</p>	<p>7 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 9:30 TRIP: Scenic Ride-Independence 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 AL Coffee Hour & Bingo, WE 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 Card Games, TS <i>Holt Begins at Sunset</i></p>	<p>8 <i>International Women's Day</i> 9:00 TRIP: Wind Creek Casino 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Women in History, TS 10:00 Bible Study w/ Rev. Glory, CH 10:00 Chess Club w/ Lou, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:00 Activity Planning Meeting, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Keith Franklin, TS 3:30 Refresh & Reminiscence, TS 7:00 Red Hatters Tea & Cheese, TS</p>	<p>9 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 TRIP: Lunch at D'Italias 2:00 BINGO, WE 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 5:30 TRIP: St. Helena's Bingo 7:00 Ice Cream & Jeopardy, TS</p>	<p>10 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 Jewish Services w/ Cantor Levin, Chapel 2:00 MUSIC: Cap N' Jack, TS 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 White Castle Social, TS</p>	<p>11 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Puzzle Club, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 TRIP: Lunch & Bingo w/ Lakhurst VFW 10061 2:00 MUSIC: Senior Moments, TS 3:30 Card Games, TS</p>
<p>12 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 TRIP: Lunch & Bingo w/ AL 435 1:00 Christian Service, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Everything Good, TS 3:30 The Good Old Days Reminiscing, TS</p>	<p>13 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Brain Games, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:15 Catholic Mass, TS 2:00 Music w/ Barbara & Strawberry Shortcake Social, TS 2:00 Zoom History w/ Don, Ch. 13 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 BINGO, WE</p>	<p>14 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 9:30 TRIP: Scenic Ride-Freedom 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:30 TRIP: Mail 2:00 BINGO, WE 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 6:45 VISIT: Nerve Stalton 7:00 Card Games, TS</p>	<p>15 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 10:00 Bible Study w/ Rev. Glory, CH 10:00 Chess Club w/ Lou, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Lou B, TS 3:30 Refresh & Reminiscence, TS 7:00 Beer & Pretzel Social, TS</p>	<p>16 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 9:30 TRIP: Scenic Ride-Eagle 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 BINGO: West Hudson Marines, WE 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 5:30 TRIP: Pippin The Musical at Carteret PAC 7:00 Ice Cream & Wheel of Fortune, TS</p>	<p>17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Michael Hannigan Bagpipe Performance, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 Jewish Services w/ Cantor Levin, Chapel 2:30 St. Patrick's Day Party w/ Irish Fiddler Brian Saura, TS 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 Shamrock Shakes & Travel to Ireland, TS</p>	<p>18 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Puzzle Club, TS 11:00 KFC Luncheon, TS 2:00 Horseshoeing, TS 3:30 Card Games, TS</p> 
<p>19 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Classical Music w/ Aziza by Carling Hospice, TS 1:00 Christian Service, TS 1:00 TRIP: Spagett Dinner Carteret AL 263 2:00 MUSIC: Steve Berger, TS 3:30 The Good Old Days Reminiscing, TS</p>	<p>20 <i>First Day of Spring</i> 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Brain Games, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:15 Catholic Mass, TS 2:00 Music w/ Barbara & Banana Pudding Social 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 BINGO: VFW 6061, WE</p> 	<p>21 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 9:30 TRIP: Scenic Ride-Old Glory 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 BINGO, WE 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 BINGO: District 5 VFW, WE</p>	<p>22 <i>9:00 TRIP: Park Casino</i> 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 10:00 Bible Study w/ Rev. Glory, CH 10:00 Chess Club w/ Lou, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Monthly Birthday Party w/ Al & Deb, TS 3:30 Refresh & Reminiscence, TS 7:00 Wine & Cheese Social, TS Ramadan Begins at Sunset</p> 	<p>23 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:30 Resident Council Meeting, TS 1:30 TRIP: Movies 2:00 BINGO: JWV 311, WE 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 Ice Cream & Name That Tune, TS</p>	<p>24 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 Jewish Services w/ Cantor Levin, Chapel 2:00 Bowling for Bucks, TS 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 Friday Night Live Music w/ Keith Franklin & Refreshments Sponsored by DAV 56, TS</p>	<p>25 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Puzzle Club, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 BINGO: Sons of AL, WE 3:30 Card Games, TS</p>
<p>26 8:30 TRIP: Oakhurst VFW Breakfast 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:00 Christian Service, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Joe Paris, TS 3:30 The Good Old Days Reminiscing, TS</p>	<p>27 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 9:00 Brain Games, TS 10:00 Exercise Club, TS 1:15 Catholic Mass, TS 2:00 Music w/ Barbara & Milkshake Monday, TS 2:00 Zoom History w/ Don, Ch. 13 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 BINGO: Middletown VFW, WE</p>	<p>28 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 9:30 TRIP: Scenic Ride-Liberty 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 BINGO, WE 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 Card Games, TS</p>	<p>29 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 10:00 Bible Study w/ Rev. Glory, CH 10:00 Chess Club w/ Lou, TS 10:00 TRIP: Adventure Aquarium 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 2:00 MUSIC: Eugenia Perovich's 100th Birthday Celebration with Everything Good, TS 3:30 Refresh & Reminiscence, TS 6:30 Memorial Church Service, TS</p>	<p>30 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Trivia, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 TRIP: Lunch at Miller's Ale House Sponsored by Woodbridge American Irish Association 2:00 BINGO, WE 3:30 31 Card Games, TS 7:00 Ice Cream & Jeopardy, TS</p>	<p>31 9:00 Morning Coffee Social, TS 10:00 Crosswords, TS 11:00 Exercise Club, TS 11:00 Jewish Services w/ Cantor Levin, Chapel 2:00 Horseshoeing, TS 3:30 Trivia Challenge, TS 7:00 Pizza & Comedy Skits, TS</p>	

Social Service News

IN ROOM TELEVISION CHANNELS

2	CBS
4	NBC
5	FOX
7	ABC
9	WOR
11	PIX
14	PBS 13
15	HGTV
16	HISTORY
17	ION TV
18	USA
19	FOX SPORTS 1
20	WEATHER CHANNEL
21	TCM
22	TBS
23	SNY
24	DISCOVERY CHANNEL
25	YES
26	TLC
27	LIFETIME NETWORK
28	FX
29	STARZ ENCORE
30	CNN
31	ME TV
32	FREEFORM
35	FOX NEWS
36	NAT GEOGRAPHIC
37	TNT
38	AMC
39	ANIMAL PLANET
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42	HALLMARK CHANNEL
43	DESTINATION AMERICA

The Social Service Department is here to assist residents of the home identify resources to meet their individual needs. Our social workers act as a liaison between residents and the home. They assist in contacting and utilizing the home's resources on the residents behalf. Our social workers provides a physical environment that is supportive while fostering a positive self-image for residents through social contact, independence, and decision-making opportunities. Under the direction of our new Social Service Director, Sanjukta (Sandy) Barry, we have 4 social workers here to work with our residents and their families. Sarah Clemente covers the Freedom Unit and Eagle Unit rooms 500-507, Christina Merlin covers the Liberty Unit and Eagle Rooms 511-531 and Jennifer Passafiume covers the Independence Unit, the Old Glory Unit and Eagle Unit rooms 537-554. Their contact information is noted in the box below.

Grievance Process: We recognize that sometimes issues occur and need to be addressed in a formal manner. The grievance process is very important to us. If you or your loved one feel you may need to file a grievance, please contact your social worker immediately so that they can assist you with the process. We will work with you to obtain a resolution to your grievance in a timely manner. If you feel that your grievances are not being addressed, you have the right to call the New Jersey Office of the Ombudsman at (646) 781-4083 for further investigation.

March is National Social Workers month. Be sure to thank your Social Worker for all of the assistance they provide throughout the year.

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Important Contacts

Lisa Kranis, Interim CEO	732-452-4102
Lisa.kranis@dmava.nj.gov	
Melissa Hickey, Interim Director of Nursing	732-452-4270
Melissa.hickey@dmava.nj.gov	
Shelly McGhee, Assistant Business Manager	732-452-4166
Shelly.mcghee@dmava.nj.gov	
Sanjukta Barry, Director of Social Services	732-452-4229
Sanjukta.barry@dmava.nj.gov	
Jennifer Passafiume, Social Worker	732-452-4228
Sarah Clemente, Social Worker	732-452-4176
Christina Merlin, Social Worker	732-452-4291
Ed Weisenhorn, Admissions Officer	732-452-4272
Ed.weisenhorn@dmava.nj.gov	
Christine Caratozzolo, Director of Recreation	732-452-4258
Christine.caratozzolo@dmava.nj.gov	
Alexandria Warren, Assistant Director of Recreation	732-452-4159
Alexandria.warren@dmava.nj.gov	
Marissa Konopka, Volunteer Director	732-452-4236
Marissa.konopka@dmava.nj.gov	
Rev. Glory Thomas, Chaplain	732-452-4260
Glory.thomas@dmava.nj.gov	

Culinary Corner

Kenneth Aravich, Food Service Supervisor

Greetings from the Kitchen. We want to hear from you! Please let us know what you think. Tell us about your favorite meals, and the meals that are not your favorite as well. Let us know about our mistakes, and how we can strive to do better. A great place to do that is at our Menu Planning Meeting. The meeting is held in the Water's Edge dining room on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30PM.



We have some new exciting meals coming up to celebrate some of our upcoming holidays, such as Ravioli with a Vodka Cream Sauce with fresh asparagus, served with a delicious Red Velvet Cake for Valentine's Day. Fried chicken, macaroni and cheese served with a silky chocolate cream pie. Jambalaya with Shrimp and Andouille Sausage served with a homemade peach cobbler. We will be introducing some new items such as, sweet potato fries, Chicken Cordon Bleu Sandwich, Hot Pastrami Sandwich, Rice Pudding and Tiramisu.

If you have any special requests, please let a Food Service Worker know. We will try to do whatever we can to accommodate you. Always remember that we will need to stay within any diet restrictions that you may have. So, make a friend in Food Service, we are here to help. Don't forget if you do not wish to eat the main menu or substitute item you can always order a delicious sandwich of the day. We have the following sandwiches; ham and cheese, tuna fish, grilled cheese, peanut butter and jelly, cream cheese and jelly, or just a simple cheese sandwich. If you are not in the mood for a sandwich, we have pizza or a hot dog for you to choose from.

Strike!

Karen Shanley, STPA

On Thursday, January 12th we finally made our way to the Linden Lanes Bowling Alley. Due to many reschedules, our Veterans finally hit the lanes in pursuit of a "Turkey."

One of our Veterans Home Residents, Milton Fitzgerald was an All-Time Pro Bowler, playing for many years. He was ecstatic to be back in his familiar surroundings. The sound of the pins being knocked down, the smell of the fried food at the snack bar and all the happy bowlers playing the game brought back many fond memories. He was so happy to see that the sport is still so popular with all 24 lanes being played at 11:00 am. Another Resident, Herminio Acevedo, had also visited the Linden Lanes back in the day and was happy to just sit and watch to remember all the memories that he had from the past.



Milton Fitzgerald

Resident Joe Blondo of the Freedom Unit shared some of his bowling techniques. His wife, Rita Blondo scored higher than Joe which we were sure to point out on the scoreboard! Strikes, spares, we didn't care. We laughed, reminisced, and had a wonderful day before boarding the bus to go back to our Home. They say that getting a "Turkey", 3 strikes in a row is the highest achievement. We didn't need a "Turkey" to achieve the great feeling that we all had being at the lanes enjoying each other and the game.



VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

Anthony Orsini– Liberty Unit

Anthony Orsini, WWII Veteran turned 100 on February 15th, 2023. The Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, Vincent Solomono, presented Anthony with a framed letter and Challenge Coin from Brigadier General Lisa Hou, The Adjutant General for the State of New Jersey.

Anthony was one of the “Forgotten 500” in Operation Halyard in 1944. Anthony spent 5 weeks sheltered by villagers behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia. In August through December of 1944, the Office of Strategic Services set out to recover the 500 US and Allied airmen during a daring, top-secret airlift named Operation Halyard.

Anthony has been a Resident at the NJ Veterans Home for 7 years and enjoys participating in the many activities and trips the home has to offer. He enjoys socializing with his fellow Residents and enjoys talking about his experience in the Service.



Valentine’s Day & a Special Birthday Celebration



Love was in the air at Menlo Park this Valentine’s Day. Josephine LaBruno turned 102 years old and received so much love from her family, Residents and staff at the Valentine’s Day/ Birthday Party. Residents enjoyed music by Lou B and made Josephine’s day extra special by serenading her with a beautiful song.



Volunteer News

Marissa Konopka, Volunteer Services Coordinator



Volunteers are a vital part of our recreation program here at the Veterans Home. Volunteers provide the much needed assistance to our Recreation Assistants for programs and one to one interactions with our Residents.

The Volunteer Program is fully back open and we are happy to have all of our wonderful individual and group volunteers back in the house! We still maintain strict Covid-19 regulations for volunteers and groups to come in. They are as follows:

1. All members are required to perform a Covid-19 screening upon entry at the entrance kiosk. This involves temperature check and Covid-19 related questions.
2. All members are required to have a rapid Covid-19 rapid test at our in house lab, wait 15 minutes for result before performing or interacting with Residents.
3. All members must be fully Covid-19 vaccinated including one booster. Proof of the vaccines must be provided via a copy of the vaccination card or print out from the Docket App.
4. All members must wear a KN-95 mask and eye protection. We provide this for them. During the performance, the singers can take their masks and eye protection off and will perform behind a clear plastic screen.

If you would like to resume volunteering, please give me a call at 732-452-4236. If you would like to sign up to be a new volunteer, go to our website: [Menlo Park \(nj.gov\)](http://MenloPark.nj.gov). We are in need of Recreation volunteers that assist with bringing residents to activities and assisting with scheduled programs. We are also in need of Friendly Visitors, Library volunteers, Horticulture volunteers, and Arts & Crafts volunteers.

Thank you to our community that was so generous this past holiday season giving us an abundance of personal care items for our Residents. The Gift shop is now our “Donation Shop.” This is used for Residents to independently “shop” for the items that they need, free of charge. The shop is open sporadically because we do not have daily coverage from our volunteers. The shop is open every Thursday morning and Thursday evening. If you are interested in volunteering in the shop, please reach out to me to schedule some hours. If any of the Residents are in need of items, please see myself or someone in Recreation and we would be happy to assist you.

WISH LIST 2023

MEN’S & WOMEN’S BODY SPRAY	SUNSCREEN	FANNY PACKS
ELECTRIC RAZORS	TALKING WATCHES	“SMPL” MUSIC PLAYERS
TRAVEL NECK PILLOWS	LARGE FACE WATCHES	BODY WASH
MEN’S 3X CLOTHING SWEAT PANTS/ SWEAT SHIRTS	MEN’S 4X CLOTHING SWEAT PANTS/ SWEAT SHIRTS	VELCRO CLOSURE SHOES ORTHOFEET BRAND

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE CONTACT MARISSA KONOPKA AT
732-452-4236 OR MARISSA.KONOPKA@DMAVA.NJ.GOV

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

“Serving Those Who Served”
732-452-4100
Edison, NJ 08818
132 Evergreen Road
New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

GOVERNOR
Phil D. Murphy

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Brigadier General Lisa Hou, D.O. Adjutant General
General Patrick M. Kennedy, Deputy Adjutant General
Vincent Solomeno, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
Rochelle Guglielmo, Director of Veterans Healthcare Services

NJ VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME, MENLO PARK
Lisa Kranis, LNHA, MPA, CDP, Interim CEO
Scott Mueller, MSN, RN, LNHA, ACEO

VETERANS FACILITY COUNCIL, MENLO PARK
Robin Goodrich, Chairperson, Elizabeth Baranowski, Daniel
Dunn, George Pezet, Kenneth Connors, Ray Orriss, Joseph Coyle
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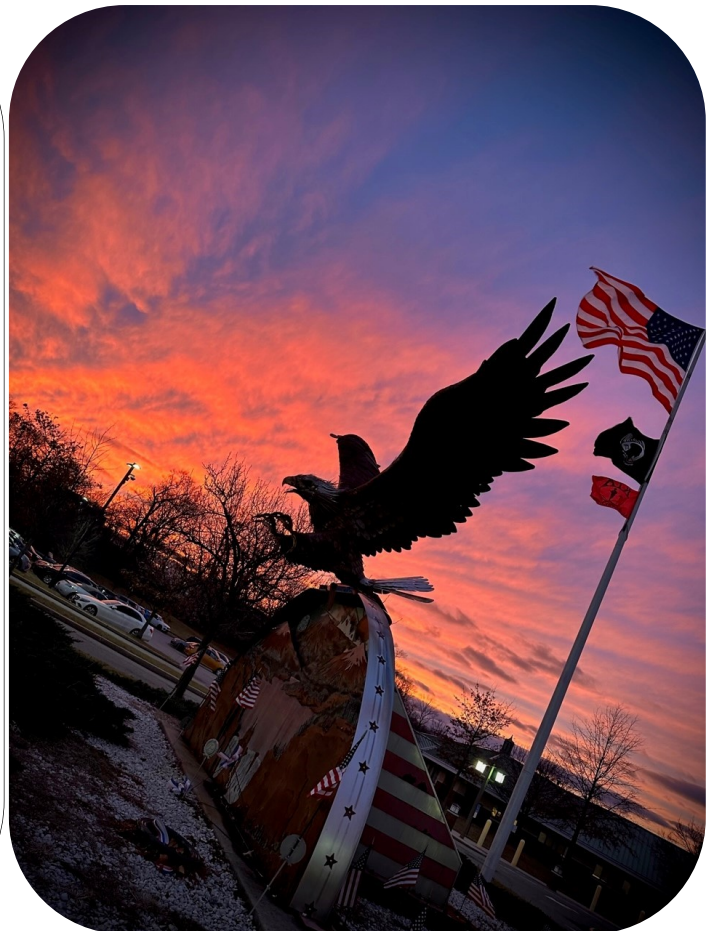


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