

VETERAN JOURNAL

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED
JULY 2016



The DCVA's message

Most of us have heard this line, and many of us have probably also said a few times. It goes: The words homeless and veteran should never appear in the same sentence.

It's a powerful sentiment and one that has widespread agreement among even those who never served in the military.

But the saying is only the recognition of the problem, not the solution.

Fortunately, we are all members of a team that is part of the solution.

The staff and volunteers at DMAVA's two transitional housing programs for homeless Veterans make a difference in the lives of nearly 200 of our former brothers- and sisters-in-arms every day.

Veterans' Haven South in Winslow Township, Camden County, makes that difference through its two-year transitional housing program that adheres to three proven pillars that have returned thousands of once homeless Veterans to productive lives -- treatment, self-reclamation, and community reintegration. It's a mission that's been ongoing for three decades.

And it's a mission that expanded three years ago in the northern half of the state with the creation of Veterans' Haven North in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County.

Both facilities follow a protocol of long-term rehabilitation services and employment training. Three out of four Veterans who complete the program never become homeless again. Vets Haven North also provides shelter on an emergency basis.

The programs at Vets Haven North and South succeed because they create positive changes in the minds of the Veterans they serve.

Sean P. Van Lew, the Vets Haven North superintendent, put it simply to his staff and his residents in a recent newsletter when he quoted Maharish Mahesh Yogi: "The important thing is this; to be able, at any moment, to sacrifice



Raymond L. Zawacki, left, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, and Iven Dumas, Superintendent, Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, prepare to cut the ribbon for the new Public Information Center at the Cemetery Nov. 11, 2015. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)

what we are, for what we could become."

That about sums up the Vets Haven program.

Walter Nall, the superintendent at Vets Haven South, agrees the key to helping Veterans past their struggles is helping them refocus on the mindset that guided them through their military service.

Nall and his staff recently awarded the DMAVA Humanitarian Service Medal to four residents – Jumar Simmons, Robert Frazier, Edward Gray, and Harold Richardson – who leapt to the aid of a staff member who had slipped into a diabetic coma.

"They knew what to do and they did it," Nall said.

The staff at Vets Haven North and Vets Haven South do their jobs well and they do it with the knowledge they have plenty of backup from the most vibrant Veterans community in the nation.

In the last year alone, Volunteers from our Veterans' community donated more than \$30,000 worth of goods to our two centers ranging from appliances, to books to vehicles. Just as important, they donated their time, 3,000 hours in all. Maybe most importantly, they spent time with Veterans in our program, helping along the sometimes complicated road that must be followed to create a new life.

For homeless Veterans, we're working toward the solution.

And it begins with helping them see the wisdom of giving up who they were, to become what they want to be.

VETERAN JOURNAL

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The Adjutant General

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Be sure to follow us on:



Cover: Remember

Maj. Ben Robbins, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, watches as his daughter sets an American flag on a headstone at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., May 28, 2016. (Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

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Businesses can make one-stop to hire veterans

By Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Every time a business hires someone, they have a specific need they are trying to fill. In most cases, when the new hire is a veteran, the business gets intrinsic values and benefits the HR department may not have even considered.

Service members are good at following instructions and enjoy being on a team. They have been taught to provide feedback, both positive and negative, they would call it giving ups and downs.

And there's this:

"Every service member earns and learns leadership skills during a military career which can greatly benefit any employer," said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

With this list of positive attributes, it is bewildering to some that the veterans' unemployment rate continues to be higher than the rest of the population.

For business, getting the job announcement to the right people is step one. That first step could be the One Stop Career Centers run by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. There are 29 One Stop centers across the state, each staffed with a veteran.

"My department is also committed to connecting New Jersey's veterans with employment opportunities through our veteran representatives and helping them transition their

military skills to jobs that will help them to reach their career goals and support their families," said Harold J. Wirths, Commissioner, LWD.

List of One-Stop Career Centers

<http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/jobseekers/vet/>

Incentive for hiring veterans

<http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/employers/incentives/hiringveterans.html>

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development "On Ramp"

<http://webos.dol.state.nj.us/Talent/Login.aspx>

Veterans Administration hiring portal

www.vets.gov/employment/

U.S. Department of Labor:

www.dol.gov/vets/

ESGR Employment Coordinator – NJ

Janice Livanos

H2h.jobs

609-562-3760

Email: jlivanos@interactivegov.com

State Approving Agency (SAA) for veteran training

www.nj.gov/military/saa/

Each year, approximately 12,000 veterans take advantage of the varied services offered at the One Stop centers. "We have business reps that reach out to employers to encourage

hiring of veterans," said O. Wayne Smith, State Veterans Program Coordinator, LWD. "They write job orders and then try to match the requirements with similar skills of veterans that have visited the One Stop center."

Businesses can use the "On Ramp" at the LWD's Job4Jersey website to post openings and job seekers can post resumes. This is one of several on websites that target veterans in the job hunt.

The Hero2Hired website transitioned to the federal Veterans Administration hiring portal, which supports the White House Joining Forces initiatives to combine federal efforts to hire veterans under one web portal and strengthens interagency collaboration among the VA, Department of Defense and Department of Labor.

This change has carried over to the coordination of job fairs being conducted statewide, numbering two to three per month the past several years.

"The job fair market was being saturated, so now we collaborate with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Veterans of Foreign Wars and U.S. Department of Labor to focus our efforts," said Janice Livanos, Employment Coordinator, New Jersey Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

This network of state and federal offices and websites, gives business the ability to get a job posting to the veterans community statewide.

Veterans 'play hooky' from PTSD

By Sgt. Bill Addison, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Approximately 20 Vietnam Veterans from the Tri-State area assembled at the New Jersey National Guard's Militia Museum at the National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt on June 14 to learn the ins and outs of crabbing at the Jersey Shore.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 hosted the event as part of their monthly fishing program, which is designed to connect veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder with the outdoors.

The workshops enable veterans to take the time to heal by utilizing healthy outdoor activities, such as fishing and crabbing, said Greg Kucharewski, a Chapter 12 member who leads the seminars.

"We call it 'playing hooky from PTSD,'" he said. "It gives them a chance to forget a little bit."

It's an effective strategy, according to Ed Mack, an attendee and member of a VVA chapter in Pennsylvania.

"The outdoor activities are probably the

most effective that you can see in an hour or two hour time period," he said. "What you've got is water, wind, and nature and people relax. They get involved in the activity and they just release themselves."



The event opened with a tour of the museum and a history lesson of the New Jersey National Guard.

Kucharewski then demonstrated various traps and baits used to catch blue claw crabs and even provided recipes and tips for how to cook their catch. Attendees each received

a goodie bag of recipes, magazines, and crabbing gear. Many walked away with door prizes as well, such as fishing trips, gear, and apparel.

Kucharewski said the program is in its third year and has already raised more than \$2,000 in donations of fishing gear and apparel.

He acknowledged that reaching Vietnam Vets with PTSD is a challenge, as many have not been diagnosed and won't seek treatment or these types of programs. He noted that the best way is to work one-on-one with veterans to help identify possible signs of PTSD and get them connected with a veteran's service office. He also said that the programs are designed to be smaller, as crowds are something vets with PTSD want to avoid.

Veterans' Service Officers also attended the event to connect the attendees with information and points of contact for veteran's services.

For more information on the program, or to find a schedule of workshops, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-785-9278 or gkucharews@jcaa.org.

Chrystal chosen as new VHS director

Story and photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Edward Chrystal was appointed as Director, Veteran Health Services, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Lawrenceville, N.J.

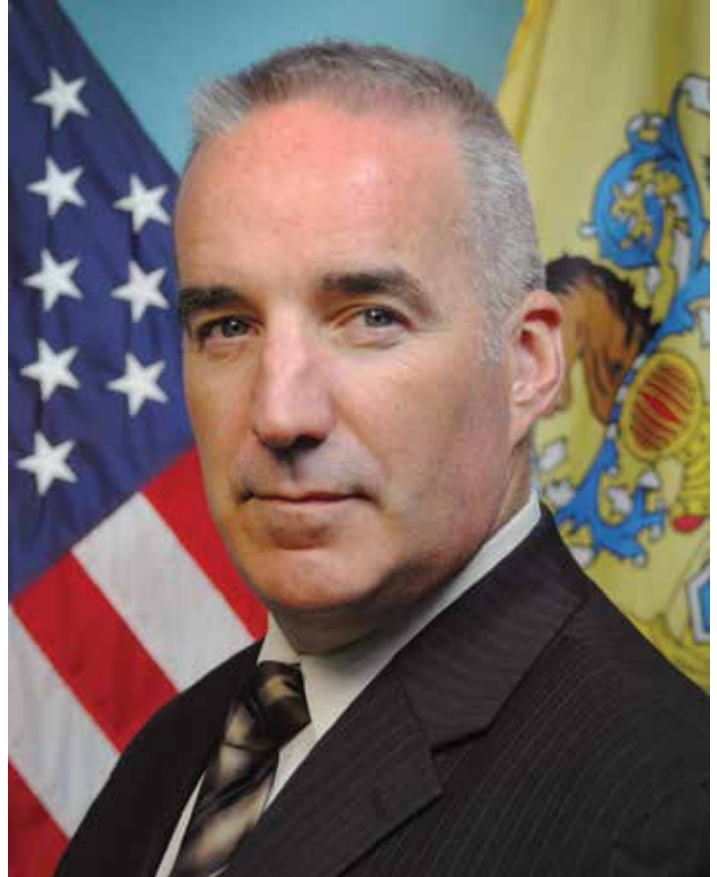
Chrystal will oversee the operations of the state's three veterans' memorial homes located in Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland that nearly 900 veterans call home.

Chrystal is a colonel in the New Jersey Army National Guard, serving since 1985. Prior to his current assignment as Land Component Commander, overseeing three Major Subordinate Commands, Chrystal was the commander of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the largest command in the New Jersey Guard with more than 2,500 Citizen-Soldiers. Chrystal is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, having served in the International Zone in Baghdad, Iraq, from 2008-2009.

Chrystal served twenty-five years with the New Jersey State Police and retired at the rank of Lieutenant in 2014. His diverse career as a State Trooper included patrol of the New Jersey Turnpike, Supervisor of the Northern NJ SWAT / SCUBA Team, Emergency Management Coordinator, Academy Instructor and Supervisor, and Supervisor for the Critical Infrastructure Security Unit.

"His three decades of leadership in the New Jersey Army Guard and State Police make him uniquely qualified to lead the health care services division," said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

An ROTC scholarship student and Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned from Seton Hall University in 1988, Chrystal earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Master's in Education from Seton Hall University. He served as an Adjunct Professor, teaching Human Resource and Administration courses for Seton Hall's Graduate Studies program. He also holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.



Residents get new van

Commander Jack Kane, right, past Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander 2014-2015, presents Sean P. VanLew Sr., Superintendent of Veteran's Haven North - a transitional housing programs for homeless veterans run by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - with the keys to a 2015 Ford Connect Oct. 20, 2015. The money for the vehicle was raised as part of Commander Kane's Department project during his command year. (Courtesy photo)



Legion donates vans



Above: Iven Dumas, Superintendent, Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery and Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard Coordinator, stand beside the new minivan donated by the Department of New Jersey American Legion at the state American Legion convention in

Wildwood June 9, 2016. This van and two 15-passenger vans for Veterans Haven North and South were Michael Babli Jr.'s state commander's project for 2015-2016. Below right: Walter Nall, superintendent, Veterans Haven South, shows off the new 15-passenger van. Below left: Michael

Babli Jr., left, presents Sean Vanlew, superintendent, Veterans Haven North, with keys to a similar van. A minivan donated by the American Legion to Veterans Haven South has logged more than 250,000 miles in three years. (NJDMAVA photos by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)



'Kinsmen' who won a war

By Master Sgt. David Moore, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

In 1945, they were young, strong, and had the cause of freedom on their side.

Margaret Jennings-Manzi was an Army nurse healing the wounded on a hospital ship navigating mine-filled waters and Louis Parisi was a Marine fighting in the bloodiest battle of in the Pacific Theater - Okinawa.

On August 16, 2015, the Monmouth County residents were honored for their roles in helping end the greatest conflict in history during a ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Veterans Administration, and the non-profit group Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive.

Both Jennings-Manzi and Parisi did their part in keeping the spirit alive with vivid recollections of what it was like to be part of the largest group of Americans who ever united for a common cause.

"There were 15 million very young people, we shared our experiences and became friends with people from all over the country - Alabama, Texas, and California," she said. "We became kinsmen. Kinsmen with one purpose: To win a war."

Jennings-Manzi's first assignment of the war was aboard the U.S.S. Seminole. The ship held 500 wounded service members and found itself under attack multiple times. Over 20 Atlantic



Raymond Zawacki, left, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs; Louis Parisi, center, and Margaret Jennings-Manzi salute at the wreath presentation during the World War II 70th Anniversary Global Tribute at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, North Hanover Township, N.J., August 16, 2015. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Devlin D. Drew/Released)

crossings, Jennings-Manzi saw it all, from caring for German and Italian prisoners to the voyage when more than 300 of the patients were paralyzed and nurses wrote letters for the wounded.

Parisi entered the Marine Corps in 1943 and saw combat across in the South Pacific. At one point, he was able to help rescue a baby who had been caught in the crossfire.

Now, 70 years later, Parisi said he has one simple wish.

"Hopefully someday there will not be any wars and the 406,000 who died in World War II will have everlasting peace," he said.

Raymond L. Zawacki, the DMAVA Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs, said younger generations need to hear the voices of World War II Veterans.

"The Greatest Generation won the war on two fronts," he said. "Thank you for teaching us today a valuable lesson of freedom and liberty."

Bailey new Vineland CEO

Story and photo by Kryn P. Westhoven
New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Allyson Bailey was recently selected as the Chief Executive Officer for the Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, N.J.

Bailey is the first female CEO at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs long-term care facility, which serves nearly 300 veterans.

Bailey joined the staff in February 2009, as Director of Nursing Services and was promoted to the Assistant Chief Executive officer for Clinical Services in January 2012. Prior to beginning State government service, Bailey was the Director of Operations for Senior Care Services of America, overseeing 11 centers in New Jersey.

"Bailey is a great choice as CEO for the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home as she is respected by the staff having served in several positions and has a wonderful relationship with the residents and their families only a nurse could have," said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

A nurse for three decades, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Administration from Wilmington College, Wilmington, Del.

Bailey was awarded her Licensed Nursing Home Administrator certification in December 2015.



HOMES RECOGNIZE VOLUNTEERS

Photos by Kryn Westhoven, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs



April was volunteer month and all three veteran memorial homes held events to honor the volunteers that set these homes apart from other long-term care facilities. The Menlo Park luncheon, left, started and finished with the John Basilone Marine Corps League honor guard. In Paramus, Frank Calandrillo, Chairman of the home's Advisory Board, lower left, presented two checks from the Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 221 in Richfield for \$200 and \$2,000 donations from past Department of New Jersey American Legion commander Mike Wilson. Allyson Bailey, Vineland CEO, below, presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Catherine Sullivan, center, with help from state Senator Jeff Van Drew. In total, volunteers volunteered nearly 70,000 hours equalling more than \$1.5 million in saved wages while civic and veteran organizations donated \$249,781 in goods and services.



Three buses in two years



*Story and photos by
Kryn P. Westhoven
New Jersey Department
of Military and Veterans
Affairs Public Affairs*

Bergen County does not have the largest veterans' population among New Jersey's 21 counties, but that fact did not stop Bob Salvani from raising \$210,000 dollars in less than two years to purchase three new buses for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus.

The project started with what was a seemingly unimportant event in the fall of 2013; a bus wasn't available to bring the Home's residents to a scheduled outing at the American Legion Post 170 in Rochelle Park where Salvani has been the commander for the past 24 years.

It was not the first time that lack of transportation had canceled opportunities for veterans to go on excursions; Salvani sprang into action to solve the problem.

"We know what a challenge it is to provide our fellow veterans with a quality of life...allowing them to get out of the home," said Salvani.

As the Bergen County American Legion commander since 2010, he proposed to the county committee of buying a bus for the state run veterans' Home.

The money poured in and the first bus was purchased and presented to the Home.

"Donations continued to come in, raising enough for a second bus; we thought we might as well finish the project replacing all three of the Home's buses," noted Salvani, adding the fund-

raising started as a gofundme.com posting and just took off.

Nearly two-thirds of the funds came from American Legion mem-

bers and posts in Bergen County. Other veteran service organizations, community groups, and individuals donated the rest.

County sponsored meetings of the stakeholders, representing the more than 32,000 veterans, helped Salvani with the networking effort.

"There is a lot of goodwill out there; we just got to connect everyone," said Ariel "A.J." Luna, Director, Bergen County Veteran Services.

Nearly a dozen times a month, the Paramus home veterans are invited out to dinner, bingo, or shopping trips. The three buses can handle up to 16-passengers and the seats fold up to accommodate wheelchairs with a built in lift.

Besides the American Legion roles of county and post commander, Salvani served as the statewide membership chairman from 2015-2016. He knows a little about membership as Post 170 is number two in New Jersey with 936 members. Currently, 175 members are residents of the Paramus Veterans home, which the post pays their dues each year.

"The state always knew that Big Bergen took care of the Paramus home," said Salvani.



Bob Salvani

Story connects lives

By Joseph Bilby, National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey

History is about stories. Carol Fowler, Assistant Curator and Veterans Oral History Director of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt, knows that well. And sometimes the Internet can provide a surprising missing link.

“So many stories in the past have gone untold,” Fowler said. “The Internet has the ability to span years and miles.”

World War II veteran, John Knox of Montclair, N.J., came to Fowler’s attention through a 2004 Memorial Day article in the Star Ledger newspaper. She thought his story should be preserved, so she arranged an interview with him as part of the Library of Congress Veterans Oral History Program.

Knox was a company first sergeant in the 559th Quartermaster Battalion, a racially segregated unit that initially trained in the Mojave Desert. The 559th mobilized to Europe after D-Day and built stockades for the German POWs they would later guard. Assigned to General George Patton’s Third Army, the 559th then served in the Battle of the Bulge, where, as Knox noted, “everyone - clerk, cook, and truck driver - became a rifleman.”

In 2007, California resident Jon Merksamer was searching for information on his late father’s World War II unit, and the search led him to the museum’s website. There, summaries of oral history interviews are posted, and thus led Merksamer to the story of John Knox.

In an email to Fowler, Merksamer recalled that his father, who was



John Knox. (Courtesy photo)

a white officer in the otherwise all-black unit, “spoke little about the war but...spoke very highly of his NCO and how efficiently he ran things.” That NCO was John Knox. Fowler sent Merksamer a copy of Knox’s interview along with his contact information.

Merksamer soon discovered that Knox had numerous memories of his father. In 2013, Merksamer became involved with the PBS documentary film “Sands of War,” about Mojave Desert training during World War II. During the course of the production, the film crew visited Knox in New Jersey and filmed his story.

Merksamer later wrote to Fowler that: “I really owe it all to you and that article online...so once again, thank you!”

Merksamer concluded his message with: “As time passes and each generation becomes a bit more removed from World War II, I fear the memory of these men and women will fade...you are certainly doing noble work in making sure that doesn’t happen.”

The Center for U.S. War Veterans Oral Histories is located at the National Guard Militia Museum in Sea Girt, N.J. For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Carol Fowler at (732) 974-5966. Veterans of all ages and from all conflicts are encouraged to have their stories recorded at the museum and archived at the Library of Congress Veterans Oral History Program.

Knox’s story can be viewed at:

www.nj.gov/military/museum/summaries/wwii/knox

TAG briefs veteran leaders

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff, at podium, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, addresses New Jersey’s veteran service organization commanders at the National Guard Armory in Lawrenceville, N.J., April 25, 2016. Cunniff noted the 2017 fiscal year Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget is \$96.4 million dollars, an \$800,000 decrease from the adjusted appropriation from the fiscal that just ended. Twice a year, the veteran leaders are briefed on the latest information to share with their respective groups. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)



NEW JERSEY HONORS IT



*By Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff
The Adjutant General of New Jersey*

*Photos by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs*



***“It has been said
that no one is truly
dead, unless they
are forgotten.
By that measure,
Memorial Day is
the day when our
heroes walk
among us again.”***

*Brig. Gen. Michael L. Cunniff
The Adjutant General of
New Jersey*

'S FALLEN HEROES

It has been said that no one is truly dead, unless they are forgotten.

By that measure, Memorial Day is the day when our heroes walk among us again.

They walk among us again because of the powers of our collective thoughts, memories and our gratitude for the men and women who gave their lives in defense of this great nation.

Their actions, their heroics, their simple willingness to do what many others would not, or could not do, are the reason America is a beacon of hope for the rest of the world.

Americans control their destiny because of the men and women we celebrate on Memorial Day. Their sacrifices are part of the reason the rest of the world knows the United States will rise up in the defense of the freedom anywhere it is threatened.

It's simply up to us to remember the heroes.

We are blessed to have many people among us who never let us forget.

They are people like the Gold Star Families and Gold Star Mothers. For them, every day is Memorial Day.

On May 7th, I had the opportunity to present a Gold Star Family member with the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, which is New Jersey's highest military honor.

Marie Lucey Liston accepted the medal on behalf of her brother, U.S. Navy Seaman First Class Neil J. Lucey.

Seaman Lucey, who grew up in Perth Amboy, was killed on December 7th 1941 at Pearl Harbor. His body is among the more than 11-hundred Sailors and Marines entombed aboard the U.S.S. Arizona.

Seaman Lucey's sister, who is now 101 years old, accepted the medal on her brother's behalf. Although she often uses a wheel chair, on that day, she walked. After the ceremony, she told a reporter that there has not been in day in the past 75 years that she hasn't thought of her only brother.

The ceremony she attended was held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Education Center in Holmdel.

If you have never been there, I suggest you go.

This year would be especially appropriate for a visit, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War.

The men and women who returned from that war demonstrated the power of remembrance to give life to the fallen when they built that wonderful memorial and education center in Holmdel.

The names of the 1,563 New Jersey residents who did not come home from Southeast Asia are etched on a long granite wall. On a quiet day, you can hear their voices.



There are many special places in New Jersey where the voices of the fallen still echo.

The New Jersey World War II Memorial on State Street in Trenton stands as both a tribute to America's greatest generation as well as a memorial to the thousands of New Jersey residents who made the ultimate sacrifice on battlefields from Normandy to Iwo Jima.

In Atlantic City, there is a lasting tribute to the nearly 900 service members from New Jersey who died in the Korean Conflict.

Perhaps the most moving remembrance of the fallen that takes place in New Jersey occurs right here, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Cemetery.

At the beginning of every Memorial Day Weekend, young people – Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts – fan across the grounds here with American flags. First one, then two ... and the next thing you know, every heroes' grave is marked with a symbol of our liberty. More than 65,000 graves in less than an hour. It is a sight to behold.

There's something else special that takes place here at Doyle that is worth mentioning.

The New Jersey Mission of Honor has buried the remains of nearly 200 Veterans here since 2009.

Although they did not die in combat, they had become missing. They were New Jersey Veterans who served honorably – and in some cases with distinction – who died without family to claim their remains. The cremated remains of some of those men languished in storage at funeral homes for more than six decades.

Last month, the Mission of Honor interred nine of these men.

They included men like Ralph Gregor,

who served with the Marine Corps in World War II and Korea and died in 1993. Harold Birkmire, an Army Veteran of World War II, who had found work as an illustrator after the war. He died in 1977 and his ashes remained unclaimed. And George C. Stamp, who enlisted in the weeks after Pearl Harbor, and served the duration of the war in the Army Air Corps. He died in 1990 with no known survivors.

Thanks to the Mission of Honor, these men were laid to rest with the dignity befitting their service. And they now lie in hallowed ground with their comrades in arms.

This all happened because the Veterans of the Mission of Honor understand the importance of remembrance.

In Lawrenceville, at the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Headquarters, there is a granite stone under a pretty shade tree.

It is etched with the names of the five New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers who gave their lives in the War on Terrorism.

Eleven years ago next month, Sgt. Frank Carvill of Carlstadt, Spc. Christopher M. Duffy of Brick, Sgt. Humberto Timoteo of Newark, and Spc. Ryan E. Doltz of Mine Hill died in two separate attacks in Baghdad.

The name of a fifth Soldier, Sgt. Jorge Oliveira, has since been added to the memorial.

Oliveira died in Afghanistan in 2011. He was serving on a mission to provide security for forces that were helping that nation rebuild.

The five National Guard Soldiers shared a bond with the generations of men and women who gave their lives in defense of the greatest nation on earth -- they believed in America and all it stands for.

It is through our memories that they live on.

Veterans Day brings new addition to Doyle

By Master Sgt. David Moore, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, third from left, Deputy Commanding General, 42nd Infantry Division, and Raymond L. Zawacki, third from right, Deputy Commissioner Veterans Affairs, cut a ribbon officially opening the Public Information Center at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, N.J., Nov. 11, 2015. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)

State leaders, military members and veterans gathered at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery Nov. 11, 2015, to cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the new Public Information Center and to “build bridges” between those who served and the American public.

The new 2,022-square-foot Public Information Center will serve as a staging area for funeral services and orient visitors to the cemetery. The \$2.56 million facility includes a cemetery map outlining all burial locations and a grave-locator kiosk. The center has a small visitor information occupied by a volunteer to provide information and assist visitors to the state veterans’ cemetery.

“Our goal was to be able to have a facility with one overall purpose and provide a one-stop facility for a family preparing for a veterans final resting place. I believe we have met the goal,” said Raymond L. Zawacki, deputy commissioner of veterans’ affairs for the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

During the event, Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari, deputy commanding general-support for the 42nd Infantry Division and the state veteran department’s health services director, stressed the importance of “building bridges” to close the gap between veterans and the

American public about military service and sacrifice.”

“Today, only seven percent of the American population are veterans. Less than one percent of the population serves in the military,” Ferrari said.

As time goes on, he added, the struggles become more remote with the public for veterans. “Employers have no one who has served in the military and as a result may be less likely to hire a veteran.”

He credited the veterans’ organization for their contributions and volunteer hours work in support of the state’s veteran department but more help is needed.

“Ask veterans who are not part of a group and then ask, why not?” he said.

He reflected on an earlier event this year held at the cemetery to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II when Monmouth

County resident Margaret Jennings-Manzi, a World War II Army nurse veteran remarked about her experiences and noted 15 million young people who came together and became “Kinsmen ... kinsmen with one purpose – to win a war.”

“Their experiences forged a bond of service,” Ferrari said.

It’s a kinship shared by all Veterans, no matter when, or where they served.

“Ask veterans who are not part of a group and then ask, why not?”

Brig. Gen. Steven Ferrari
*Deputy Commanding General
42nd Infantry Division*

THANK YOU!

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen
New Jersey National Guard Public Affairs



Senior Airman Dana Rhoads, right, 177th Fighter Wing, shakes hands with a resident at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland during the 15th Annual Holiday Songfest Dec. 16, 2015.

The harmony of holiday cheer resonated throughout the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland Dec. 16, 2015.

Sixteen Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing joined forces with more than 80 fourth graders from the Seaview School in Linwood, N.J., and brought their singing talents to the Home's residents during their Annual Holiday Songfest.

The Home's veteran population includes residents that have served from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This was the fifteenth year the New Jersey Air National Guard members have visited the Home. The visit's purpose was two-fold: First to bring donated items from the Home's wish list to the residents and second, to perform holiday songs for the residents.

In past years, Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Donovan and Senior Master Sgt. Mike Monteith coordinated the 177th's effort, working with the Chiefs' Council and the Junior Enlisted Council, as well as other individuals to fulfill the Home's wish list.

But Donovan and Monteith felt it was time for a change in the program's leadership.

"It was time for us to step back and let someone new take over," said Monteith.

"The 177th Junior Enlisted Council has taken over the operation," said Staff Sgt. Stacey Pareene, 177th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "I'm really excited to see the kids visit the residents and be involved."

The Council also raised more than \$500 for needed items.

"We were able to buy wish list items that help in the veteran's daily living," said Pareene.

The Airmen and fourth graders were divided into groups and sent out to spread cheer to the residents.

The carolers sang in the hallways and dayrooms, as well as serenaded bedridden residents. They also passed out holiday greeting cards and chatted with the veterans.

And while some of the Airmen had probably not ever sung in public, their efforts were matched by the looks of happiness and joy in the residents' eyes as they performed for them.



Senior Master Sgt. Harry Waugh, right, 177th Fighter Wing, guides a resident at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland.

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Above: Staff Sgt. Debbie Macalalad, 108th Medical Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, performs a blood pressure check on a homeless veteran at the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Stand Down at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center in Newark, N.J., Oct. 10, 2015. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Carl Clegg, Released) Below: Yellow shirted Stand Down South volunteers hand out outerwear, blankets and sleeping bags to homeless veterans in the parking lot at the National Guard Armory in Cherry Hill, N.J., Oct. 7, 2015. (NJDMA-VA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)



35 years of volunteerism

Photos by Mark C. Olsen, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Public Affairs

Dottie and Friends made their annual holiday visit at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland, Dec. 15, 2015. Every December, for the last 35 years, Dottie Cullen and her group of volunteers have brought cheer and gifts to the Home's residents. This year, Cumberland Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol cadets performed the flag folding ceremony; The Boys and Girls Club of Vineland sang holiday songs and local dance academies performed for the veterans. Photos clockwise: Dottie Cullen, right, holds hands with a Veterans Home resident. Residents listen as members of the Boys and Girls Club of Vineland sing the 12 Days of Christmas. Santa Claus, right, shakes hands with a resident. A Memorial Home staff member and a Civil Air Patrol cadet pass out pastries to Home residents. A resident smiles for the camera.



Veterans honored at ceremony

Raymond Zawacki, right, the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, presents Gerard L. Gentilella, left, the certificate for the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during annual New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, N.J., May 7, 2016. The medals were presented by Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Brig. Gen. Michael Cunniff, The Adjutant General of New Jersey, to 43 veterans. U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Woolley/Released)



Hangin' with the Phanatic

Gus Papahanges, left, a resident of the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home Vineland, gives a time check to the Philly Phanatic during the mascot's visit to the facility May 9, 2016. The Major League baseball mascot has visited the Home numerous times as part of the Philadelphia Phillies support of the veterans community. (Courtesy photo)





Happy 100th

Michael K. Fostik, Sr., right, celebrates his 100th birthday as his daughter Connieann Kocher helps him blow out the candles at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park Jan. 23, 2016. Fostik served in the Army in several European campaigns during World War II attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Once returning from he settled in Harrison raising three children and now has eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn Westhoven/Released)

Laid to rest

A New Jersey National Guard Honor Guard Soldier carries a Soldier's remains during the New Jersey Mission of Honor's 23rd committal ceremony for nine veterans at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, at Arneytown, N.J., April 28, 2016. The veterans served in the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard during World War II and the Korean War. The veterans' remains, some of which had been abandoned for as long as 40 years, were laid to rest with full military honors as dozens of veterans from across the state came to pay their respects. (NJDMAVA photo by Kryn P. Westhoven/Released)



VETERANS NEWS & VIEWS

JWV donates furniture

The Department of New Jersey Jewish War Veterans donated new furniture for the visitors' lounge at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, May 22, 2016. Joseph Brandspiegel, Menlo Park VMH CEO, center, thanked the JWV members for the generous donation. (NJDMAVA photo by Dorothy E. De Los Reyes/Released)



Forgotten Veterans remembered

Retired Spc. 4 Robert Bliss, Korean War Veterans Association 148, gives the benediction during a ceremony commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the armistice signing at the New Jersey Korean War Veterans Memorial in Atlantic City, N.J., July 27, 2015. The New Jersey Korean War Veterans Memorial was created to ensure that future generations remember and honor the pride and dedication of those who served and the freedom they preserved. (NJDMAVA photo by Mark C. Olsen/Released)



New Jersey's state awards

From the Division of Veterans Services

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs presents five medals to veterans.

You can download the application for the award online at:

<http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/awards/forms/application.pdf>

When you submit the form, you must include copies (DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS!) of the following documents:

~ proof of residency (any document showing name and home address).

~ DD Form 214 indicating Honorable Discharge.

~ evidence of active duty service in qualifying areas or contiguous waters or airspace.

~ evidence of status as POW or MIA.

Send in your completed application and documents to:

New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

ATTN: DVS-VBB (Awards)

PO Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

Below is a list of the medals and their eligibility criteria.

New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was originally issued in 1858 for those who had distinguished themselves in the New Jersey Militia, but was infrequently used until re-authorized by Governor Kean in 1988. It is New Jersey's highest military award.

Eligibility criteria:

~ combat veteran as defined by law.

~ current New Jersey resident.

~ a state resident at the time they entered into military service.

~ honorably discharged.

~ proof of service in combat theater while on active duty during wartime. No one shall be entitled to more than one award of the medal and ribbon.

Oak Leaf Cluster - Those recipients whose service was recognized by the award of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent medal will receive a N.J. Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal

Eligibility criteria:

~ current New Jersey resident.

~ on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975.

~ meet one of the following four "in country" requirements:

(a) were attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations.

(b) were attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations.

(c) participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations.

(d) served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations.

New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal

This medal is awarded to combat veterans who were not New Jersey residents when they entered the military service, but who are current New Jersey residents and have resided in the state for the previous five years. All other qualifications are the same as for the Distinguished Service Medal.



New Jersey's state awards. Clockwise, starting top left: New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal, New Jersey Korean Service Medal, New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal, New Jersey POW-MIA Service Medal and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released)

New Jersey Korean Service Medal

Eligibility criteria:

~ New Jersey residents on active duty in the armed forces in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955, and

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

~ were 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

New Jersey POW-MIA Service Medal

Presented to individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces in a combat theater of operations during time of war or emergency, was taken prisoner and held captive and/or listed as missing in action.

Eligibility criteria:

~ New Jersey resident

~ New Jersey resident upon entry on active duty

~ served in a combat theater and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Department of Defense.

~ received an honorable discharge. Each of these awards can be presented posthumously to the surviving spouse or immediate family member of any state resident meeting the requirements for the medal who was killed while on active duty or who died after receiving an honorable discharge.

Click on this link to access the award form:

<http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/awards/forms/application.pdf>

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

"SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED"

ATLANTIC/CAPE MAY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
ATLANTIC CITY ARMORY, 1008 ABSECON BOULEVARD
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 08401

(609) 441-3060 / 3061 / FAX: (609) 441-3899

BERGEN/PASSAIC VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
125 STATE STREET, SUITE #109,
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601-5435

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BURLINGTON VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
555 HIGH STREET, SUITE #6A

Mt HOLLY, NJ 08060

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WOODBURY, NJ 08096

(856) 853-4184 / 4185 / 4186 / FAX: (856) 384-3781

ESSEX/UNION VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
20 WASHINGTON PLACE, ROOM #431

NEWARK, NJ 07102

(973) 297-3230 / FAX: (973) 648-2356

HUDSON VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
JERSEY CITY ARMORY

678 MONTGOMERY STREET, 2ND FLOOR
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

(201) 536-3401 / FAX: (201) 536-3404

MERCER VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

151 EGGERTS CROSSING ROAD, ROOM #136
LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648

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MIDDLESEX/SOMERSET VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
1060 HAMILTON STREET

SOMERSET, NJ 08873

(732) 937-6347 / 6348 / FAX: (732) 937-6417

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630 BANGS AVENUE, SUITE #320

ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712

(732) 775-7009 / 7005 / FAX: (732) 775-3612

NEWARK LIAISON OFFICE

20 WASHINGTON PLACE

NEWARK, NJ 07102-3174

(973) 297-3336 / FAX: (973) 642-0830

OCEAN VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
JAMES J. HOWARD OUTPATIENT CLINIC

970 ROUTE 70

BRICK, NJ 08724

(732) 840-3033 / 3034 / FAX: (732) 840-0399

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479 W CLINTON STREET

DOVER, NJ 07801

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200 SANATORIUM ROAD

GLEN GARDNER, NJ 08826

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Life doesn't have to be a battlefield



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your copy of the New
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your Veterans
Service Office.**

**For information on your Veteran entitlements, call toll-free
1-888-8NJ-VETS, or online at:**

www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html