

DMAVA Highlights

November 4, 2010 Volume 12 Number 42



In Vineland ...

A dream come true



Story and photo by Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist.

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home resident Rick Toler, seated, met his 19-year-old daughter, Brianna Trent of Minneapolis for the first time on Oct. 28, 2010. Toler, a Desert Storm/Desert Shield veteran, is currently receiving hospice care at the home. The reunion was made possible by a grant from the Second Wind Dreams group.

The group has been helping nursing home residents wishes/dreams become a reality since 1997.

So far, 40 dreams have been granted since July when the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home was granted a lifetime scholarship through the generosity of the Harrah's Foundation.

Other dreams granted that day included a Veteran who received an official Air Force pilot's jacket.

Another Veteran who has always wished to learn to play the steel drums will be given a lesson from star percussionist Tito Puente Jr. who will come to the home on Nov. 20 to grant her wish.

An 88-year old Army Veteran will be able to have an all-you-can-eat lunch at his favorite seafood restaurant.

The fifth, sixth and seventh dream recipients have a common thread: all three wish to fly in an airplane again. Their wish will be granted by a retired Air Force pilot this month.

The final dream was from a 77-year old Army Veteran who is an avid Toby Keith fan. His wish will be granted to attend his concert in Atlantic City and have an opportunity for a meet and greet prior to the Show.

Back in 2007, Google launched 1-800-GOOG-411, a voice-powered directory assistance service that offered quick connections to businesses in the U.S. and Canada. On Nov. 12, the company will shut down the service. Here are some other options: 1-800-555-TELL; 1-800-FREE-411; 1-800-YELLOWPAGES. And the State-issued 856-982-3782.

Jersey Guard helps spread 'Red Ribbon' anti-drug message

By Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

The closest Gunnar Larson ever came to the cockpit of an UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter was an Xbox game. The video game got the 7th grader at Freehold Intermediate School thinking some day he might want to fly one.

Then Larson sat in the cockpit of a real New Jersey Army National Guard Blackhawk and any doubt went away -- he's now a kid with a dream.

"Fly one of these things? That's what I want. These National Guard (pilots) told me how to do it," Larson said. How?

"Stay in school, study hard, keep out of trouble and stay away from drugs," Larson said.

And that was the message the New Jersey National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and officials of CentraState Healthcare System hopes the rest of the 150 middle school students who took part in the DEA's Red Ribbon Campaign event in Freehold last week.

The event at the CentraState Health Awareness Center campaign was part of a nationwide effort launched after DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena was kidnapped and murdered in 1985 by Mexican drug traffickers.

For most of the students, the highlight of the event was the National Guard equipment including two Blackhawks, a Humvee and a Counter-Drug display that allows the students to try on goggles that create the same vision impairment as alcohol intoxication. The students weren't the only ones impressed.

"Having the Soldiers and equipment and helps the students absorb the whole positive message about the dangers of drugs," said Nelson Ribon, the principal at Freehold Intermediate School.



Iraqi Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein Jasim Mohammed Al Awadi, right, Iraqi Federal Police Commander and Brig. Gen. Michael R. Smith, second from right, Director of the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Police, watch as Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Turner demonstrates a 50-caliber machine gun at the Joint Training and Training Technology Development Center on Nov. 1. The visit was to provide Lt. Gen Hussein with an understanding of the processes and the concept of inter-agency cooperation. Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen, 177FW/PA.

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Tribute to Jersey Veterans book on sale for holidays

Just in time for Veterans Day and the holidays – a 25 percent discount off the cover price for “A Tribute to New Jersey Veterans.”

Produced by the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey and The Star-Ledger, the 128-page hard-cover book traces the 300-year history of the New Jersey National Guard from its inception to current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The volume makes a fine coffee table book and is a compelling read about the accomplishments of the Soldiers and Airmen who have served in the organization.

Profits from the book benefit the museum.

Signed copies are available at this sale price of \$29.95 at the Sea Girt and Lawrenceville Museums.

Mail orders must be placed by Dec. 15 to ensure delivery by Dec. 25. Please mail check for \$37.45 (\$31.95 plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling) to the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, ATTN: COL Donald Kale, 151 Eggert Crossing Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

If you have any questions, please contact the Museum at 609-530-6802.

CFC runs until Nov. 30

By Jo Anne Miller, CFC Coordinator

The New Jersey National Guard Combined Federal Campaign has officially kicked off its 2010 Campaign which will run until Nov. 30.

The CFC provides every federal employee with an annual opportunity to voluntarily help by donating to local, national and international level human, health and environmental organizations. Contributions may be made via easy payroll deductions or by check.

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

NJ ECC looking for you!

The New Jersey State Employees Charitable Campaign (ECC) has officially kicked off its 2010/2011 Campaign which will run until Dec. 15.

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

This year's ECC Coordinator for the State's Employees Charitable Campaign is Paul Serdiuk, of the DMAVA-HRD Office. For more information, call 609-530-6878. You may also access information on line at www.njsecc.org.

DMAVA Green

By Tech Sgt. Barb Harbison, DMAVA Public Affairs Specialist

Shopping is a favorite pastime for many folks. And finding a bargain makes the trip all the better. But for many people who are thinking green, adding more possessions to their homes makes them stop and think about the purchase process. Reduce, reuse, recycle become watchwords for them.

For those looking to save money and shop greener, going to thrift or consignment shops can be the answer. One man's 'junkie' can be another man's treasure.

Or maybe you are looking for a special dress for the wedding coming up in a month or two or for your spouse's holiday party. To avoid running up the credit card bill, try a shop that specializes in dressy or vintage clothing. Become the belle of the ball for much less the cost of going to a department store or specialty shop.

Sometimes it is hard to find the shop that carries what you are looking for – and do you even know where your local thrift shop is located? Go to your Web browser and type in “thrift shops in nj” or something that quantifies your search. By typing in “thrift shops in nj,” I found the following two links in the list provided that shows me the state has a nice variety of thrift shops where I can shop. Check out http://new-jersey.uscity.net/Thrift_Stores/ or http://thrift-shop-directory.com/NJ_thrift_shops.htm for more information.

If you are doing some travelling and want to check out thrift shops across the country, check out the Earth911 article at <http://earth911.com/news/2010/10/25/the-best-thrift-shops-in-the-u-s/>. From Seattle to Austin, New York City to Miami, it lists thrift stores that sell designer clothing, musical instruments, Jimmy Choo shoes, excess Disney apparel and more.

A number of thrift and consignment stores' proceeds go to support causes, such as at risk women, animal shelters, various health concerns, and more.

Keep Green!

Quotes

“The supreme happiness of life is the conviction we are loved.”

--Victor Hugo

“There is no disguise which can hide love for long where it exists, or simulate it where it does not.”

--La Rochefoucauld

“Love is the true price of love.”

--George Herbert

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Families

Holiday mailing dates given for overseas packages, cards

By Karen Jowers, Air Force Times

For those mailing packages to friends and loved ones in the military overseas, Christmas comes early. And Hanukkah comes even earlier.

It depends on how you plan to send it, but if it's traveling the slowest way — parcel post — mail that package by Nov. 12 to get it there by Dec. 25, according to recommended holiday shipping dates provided by the Military Postal Service Agency.

Here are the other recommended mail deadlines. Subtract 24 days from each deadline to get it there in time for Hanukkah:

- Space Available Mail (SAM): Nov. 20 to contingency locations (APO/FPO/DPO AE Zip 093); all other overseas military locations by Nov. 26.

- Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL): Dec. 1 to contingency locations; all others by Dec. 3.

- Priority Mail: Dec. 4 to contingency locations; all others by Dec. 10.

- First-class cards and letters: Dec. 4 to contingency locations; all others by Dec. 10

- Express Mail Military Services: Not available to contingency locations; other locations by Dec. 18. Check with your local post office to determine if this service is available to a particular APO/FPO/DPO address.

East Hanover establishment offers fun for family at a discount

Fall and winter weather is fast approaching. What do you do with the kids when they can't play outdoors, their video games are borrrrring and they simply need to blow off some steam?

The Funplex in East Hanover, N.J. is offering a 10 percent discount on any purchase when you present your military or government ID at the door. The Funplex is located at 182 Route 10 West.

The indoor attractions include: go-karts, bumper cars, junior bumper cars, Lazer Runner, 4D theater and arcade games. For more information on their games and pricing, visit their Web site - www.thefunplex.com.

DoD offers interactive education resource for military families

Department of Defense Education Activity's Educational Partnership proudly presents "Students at the Center," an interactive educational resource for everyone involved in the education of the children of our military service members. It has a lot of information for families, military commands, school officials and more. Check out the Web site at <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter>.

Family care plan change addresses custody questions

By Karen Parrish, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19, 2010 – A recent change in Defense Department policy highlights why servicemembers and deployable civilians who also are custodial parents may want to seek legal help in arranging their children's care during deployment.

DOD Instruction 1342.19, "Family Care Plans," was revised in May to require such plans from troops and expeditionary civilians who have legal custody or joint custody of a minor child. The new policy requires these parents to attempt to obtain the consent of the noncustodial or adoptive parent to any family care plan that would leave the child in the custody of a third party.

Army Col. Shawn Shumake, director of the Pentagon's office of legal policy, said many servicemembers may believe mistakenly that their family care plans allow them to transfer temporary custody to a child's stepparent or grandparent during a deployment. But when another biological parent is in the picture, state courts have unanimously ruled that a parent's custodial rights take precedence.

"If you see that there's going to be a conflict [over custody], then you need to go into court before you deploy, and get the court to resolve any issues," Shumake said.

While developing a family care plan, filers identify short- and long-term care providers, supply documentation of financial arrangements ensuring the self-sufficiency of family members, complete transportation arrangements and designate escorts for family members, and otherwise prove their families' needs will be met during their absence.

Each military branch has its own regulation covering family care plans, and the services are revising those regulations to comply with the DOD instruction, Shumake said.

The instruction, originally published in 1992, initially applied only to single-parent servicemembers. Beginning in 2008, dual-military couples with children were required to file such a plan. The policy now applies to:

- Servicemembers and civilian expeditionary work force members who have legal custody or joint custody of a minor child;
- Single parents;
- Dual-service couples with dependent family members under the age of 19; and
- Servicemembers and expeditionary civilians legally responsible for others of any age who are unable to care for themselves in their absence.



Et Cetera

Veterans' Day events

Lt. Gov. visiting Menlo Park

Menlo Park Memorial Veterans Home, Edison, will have Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno in attendance at their Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.

Vineland home has music salute

Vineland Veterans Memorial Homes will hold their annual "Salute to Veterans," a musical tribute to veterans, in the home's auditorium on Nov. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Some of the home's residents will also be participating in a lunch at the Bellplain VFW. This dinner and program has been taking place for more than 20 years.

Paramus home honors residents

The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus will hold its Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 2 p.m.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General, retired Brig. Gen. Frank Carlini, and Deputy Commissioner Ray Zawacki will join veterans' organizations, residents and their families to honor our Veterans at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus.

Vietnam Memorial ceremony set

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will host a Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The N.J. Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is located on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, N.J.

Air Force Col. Colonel Gina M. Grosso, commander of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and the 87th Air Base Wing will be the keynote speaker.

The Memorial will induct three veterans into the "In Memory" Program, which honors those who served in Vietnam and returned home only to die as a result of their tour, but whose names are not on the Memorial.

The three inductees are:

Arthur S. Bialoskurski, U.S. Army, from Cherry Hill, N.J., who died on July 25, 2007

Wilbur S. Hall, U.S. Army, from Union, N.J., who died on August 31, 2007

Joseph A. Krisanits, U.S. Army, from Elizabeth, N.J., who died on January 4, 2010

As part of the ceremony, family members will say a few words about their loved one and light a candle in their memory.

Church honoring military

Union Baptist Church of Trenton will recognize the dedicated service of our armed forces in a special worship service on Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. The congregation will show its appreciation by saluting past and present members of the military and their families during its "Armed Forces Appreciation Day." The church is located at 301 Pennington Avenue.

Persons who have served or are currently in the military or have a spouse, fiancé or children who are currently serving and would like to attend this service should contact the church office with your name and daytime phone number at 609-392-2245 ext. 3 by Nov. 10.

Doyle Cemetery service at 11 a.m.

Come to the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Nov. 11, for the Veterans Day Service and Flag Retirement Ceremony at 11 a.m.

RSVP to Genia DiBella at 609-738-2404 if planning to attend.

Golf tourney supports military

Now is the time to sign up for the Tunnel to Towers National Golf Tournament being held at seven places on the east coast on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Local locations include Staten Island, N.Y., Fort Monmouth, N.J., and Williamsport and Shamokin, Pa.

The golf tournament honors and supports American troops and their families. If you are interested in participating – the local golf proceeds will be going to help build a house for U.S. Army Spec. Brendan Marrocco, a quadruple amputee due to wounds sustained in Iraq – call Jack Furnari or Terri Magnuski at 718-987-1931 or e-mail jackf@tunneltotowersgolf.org. Cost for the round of golf and dinner is \$195 per person.

Jersey Devils offer Vets Day deal

Celebrate Veterans' Day with the New Jersey Devils. Watch the Devils play the Buffalo Sabres in the Prudential Center on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. for a special price.

In honor of Veterans' Day, the New Jersey Devils are having a special ticket offer for the men and women of the armed forces. You can get a game ticket plus a \$10 food and beverage card for only \$20 when you purchase online.

Go to www.newjerseydevils.com/veteransday. The special offer code is DEVILS. Tickets are based on availability. If you have any questions, call New Jersey Devils representative Samantha Davis at 973-757-6168.

Free dinner at Applebee's

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar will thank American veterans again this year with a complimentary meal on November 11 - Veterans Day. A special selection of entrees will be available for their special guests at all Applebee's restaurants throughout the United States.

Last year, the restaurant initiated this program and served more than one million free meals to current and former members of the military.

Due to the popularity of last year's event, New Jersey Applebee's will open one hour earlier for lunch starting at 10 a.m. and continue serving dinner until midnight or later in order to accommodate more of our deserving military.

All U.S. veterans and active duty personnel with proof of current or former military service can choose one complimentary entrée from this selection of favorites. Proof of service includes the following: U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, photograph in uniform or wearing uniform, DD214, Citation or Commendation. To locate the Applebee's restaurant nearest you or for more information, visit www.applebees.com.

Veterans & Military

Program links Reservists, Guardsmen, families to jobs

By Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service

A program that links reserve and National Guard members, their families and veterans with civilian employers has reached a milestone, with more than 1,000 employers now signed on to hire qualified job-seekers.

The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, originally an Army Reserve initiative that has expanded militarywide, is growing by leaps and bounds as it helps both the military and civilian employers tap into the same talent pool, reported Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, who founded the program.

In one of the more promising new developments, the Army Reserve, which still manages the program, is working with the Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. to provide hybrid vehicle certification training and jobs to military mechanics, Stultz said.

"They are going to provide the hybrid training to our mechanics, because the Army doesn't have that training," he said. "So they will provide that training at their expense."

In another innovative arrangement in the works, GE Healthcare, which manufactures MRI equipment and CT scanners, plans to hire military biomedical equipment specialists to maintain it, the general said.

Stultz said he has met twice with GE Healthcare corporate officer Mark Vachon to discuss the concept.

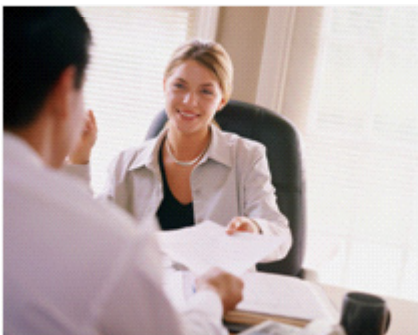
"I can recruit kids or take current soldiers I've got who want to get into that field," he said. "Mike will take them and train them at his facility in Milwaukee and certify them."

From there, he added, the trainee will move into one of about 300 high-demand jobs GE Healthcare opens each year around the country.

Stultz calls the partnership initiative a win-win situation for everyone involved. Reserve-component members get a leg up in a competitive job market. Employers who understand their military obligations guarantee interviews for qualified applicants, as well as priority placement for openings. In return, employers get to capitalize on the participants' military training, while getting a quality worker many say is increasingly difficult to come by.

Vachon at GE Healthcare told Stultz he's impressed with the quality and integrity of employees he gets through the program.

"I can take a soldier and I can trust that if that soldier goes to a hospital to take care of equipment, he is going to do his job," Stultz said, quoting Vachon. "He understands what 'mission first' is all about."



VA streamlining forms for disability benefits, major reform

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released three new disability benefits questionnaires for physicians of Veterans applying for VA disability compensation benefits. This initiative marks the beginning of a major reform of the physicians' guides and automated routines that will streamline the claims process for injured or ill Veterans.

These new questionnaires are the first of 79 disability benefits questionnaires that will guide Veterans' personal physicians, as well as VA physicians, in the evaluation of the most frequent medical conditions affecting Veterans.

Accurate and timely medical evaluations are a critical element of VA's continued commitment to high-quality and prompt decisions about the nature and degree of conditions afflicting Veterans. Streamlining this process by directly involving Veterans' treating physicians in providing specific information needed to evaluate their claims will lead to completeness in the examination and faster compensation decisions.

VA's goal is to process all claims in fewer than 125 days with a decision quality rate no lower than 98 percent, a mark Secretary Shinseki has mandated by 2015. The physician questionnaire project is one of more than three dozen initiatives actively underway at VA, including a major technology modernization that will lead to paperless claims processing.

The disability benefits questionnaires are part of VA's automated health records system which prompts VA physicians conducting disability examinations to include precise information in a standardized way to assist claims adjudicators in ensuring

Veterans receive the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible.

These VA examination results are electronically available to claims adjudicators in VA regional offices.

For Veterans who receive their care from private physicians, VA has placed the disability benefits questionnaires on its Internet site (<http://www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams>) with instructions for physicians to submit examination results on Veterans' behalf.

The first three questionnaires cover B-cell leukemia (such as hairy-cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

For additional information on the VA disability compensation program or additional presumptive disabilities for Veterans exposed to herbicide agents, contact VA at 800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm>.

N.J. Warrant Officer Association looking for new members

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Fort Dix Doughboy Chapter, is looking for members. For membership information, contact Chief Warrant Officer Nancy E. Rowbotham at nancy.rowbotham@us.army.mil.



Calendar

Job fair in Philadelphia, Nov. 11

RecruitMilitary is producing a Veteran Opportunity Expo in Philadelphia, Pa., in cooperation with the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network to benefit veterans, transitioning military personnel, members of the Guard and Reserve, and military family members.

It will be held on Nov. 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lincoln Financial Field – home of the Philadelphia Eagles, 1020 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia.

Veteran-friendly employers, franchisors, and educational institutions will be in attendance offering a variety of opportunities.

You can register for the event on the candidate information page - <https://www2.recruitmilitary.com/expos/333-Philadelphia/candidates/information>.

Run With Dennis, Nov. 7

Put on those running shoes and gear up for the fifth annual “Run With Dennis” being held at the PNC Arts Center, Garden State Parkway, Holmdel, N.J., on Nov. 7. The run honors LT Dennis W. Zilinski II, who was killed in action in Iraq on Nov. 19, 2005. The run is 3.5 miles, with a 2 mile walk for those not up to pounding the pavement.

All proceeds of the run are used to support the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund. This non-profit fund provides support to improve the morale and welfare of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. Additionally, scholarships are awarded to students who embody the leadership qualities and community spirit of Lt. Zilinski.

To sign up for the run or walk or to make a donation to the memorial fund, visit www.runwithdennis.org.

Get a seat at the Macy's parade

HAI – www.hainyc.org – is offering to share their large reserved viewing space on 7th Avenue, Manhattan, for this year's Macy's NYC Thanksgiving Day Parade on Nov. 25, with military families, service members and veterans.

If you are interested in attending, you must RSVP. To RSVP, please e-mail amy.maniscalco@us.army.mil. Send your name and the service member's name; military unit, component and branch; number of dependents in your group, and priority status (see below). RSVP no later than Nov. 15.

Priority Status:

1. Immediate family members of deployed service members, families of deployed DoD employees and surviving dependents of fallen service members;

2. Wounded service members in WTU or similar program, and their immediate family members;

3. Recently returned veterans/service members and their immediate family members;

4. Service members preparing to mobilize/deploy and their immediate family members, and

5. All other Guard/Reserve/Active/veterans and their immediate family members.

Location, arrival time and other details will be shared via e-mail to all who RSVP. General parade information can be found at Macy's Web site - <http://social.macys.com/parade2010>.

Pancakes, flu shots for Vets

The Trenton Vet Center will assist Mercer County veterans receive a health care assessment and flu shots as they enjoy a pancake breakfast on November 10, 2010 at 9:00 am.

The Trenton Vet Center is located at 934 Parkway Ave, Ewing 08618.

Veterans must be in uniform or present a DD-Form 214 to participate in this event. For more information please call 609-882-5744.

Radio City trips from Picatinny Arsenal

Picatinny Arsenal's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department is sponsoring two trips to New York's Radio City on Sunday, Nov. 21 and on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

The cost is \$94 per person and it includes great orchestra section seating and charter bus transportation.

November seats are in Orchestra Right Center, rows C-F and the December seats are in Orchestra Left Center, rows B-E.

Trips depart the Arsenal at 11:15 a.m. return approximately 8 p.m.

Call to 973-724-4014 to reserve seats or for additional information.

Bridal Show at Picatinny, Nov. 9

If a wedding is in your future, you may want to reserve your spot at “The Ultimate Bridal Show Experience,” on Nov. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Cannon Gate Catering, Picatinny Arsenal.

Admission is free. Come and enjoy New Jersey's finest high energy Bridal Fashion show choreographed to music, special effect lighting and sound.

There will be complimentary champagne, hors d'oeuvres, food and desserts. Those attending will find merchant prizes and bridal magazines.

Call 973-669-1625 for reservations.

Veterans Outreach Campaign schedule

The DMAVA Veterans Outreach Campaign has kiosk displays at malls throughout the state and other special events to help veterans and their family members discover and apply for the benefits they are eligible to receive.

Nov. 4** Belleville Public Library

Nov. 8*, 9, 10 Ocean County Mall

Nov. 8** Toms River Elks Lodge 1875

Jan. 11*, 12, 13 Moorestown Mall

*Medal ceremony 10:30 a.m.

**Medal only ceremony, beginning at 1 p.m.