Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, along with several New Jersey Boy Scouts pose for a photo in front of a UH-60A Blackhawk on April 30 at West Point, N.Y. at the U.S. Military Academy’s 49th Annual West Point Scout Camporee. The New Jersey National Guard supported the event by providing a Blackhawk fly-over and static display.

There were approximately 6,000 scouts from across the United States and 400 volunteer West Point Cadets at the event. The annual Boy Scout Camporee was hosted by the West Point Scoutmasters’ Council, a cadet organization comprised of former Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who currently attend the academy, and was held at the banks of Lake Frederick.
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Staff Sgt. Jennifer Sbarro, New Jersey National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, pitches a box containing part of the 12,464 pounds of unwanted or expired medications collected during Operation Take Back New Jersey 2011. Law enforcement agencies across the state set up collection points on April 30 where New Jerseyans could drop-off unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal. The Operation is an initiative of the Jersey division of the Drug Enforcement Administration, The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, and the New Jersey National Guard. According to the DEA, more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those using cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. (Photo by Mark C. Olsen, DMAVA/PA)

U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D-12th Dist.) was the keynote speaker May 7 at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Foundation Remembrance Day ceremony at the organization’s memorial in Holmdel. Raymond L. Zawacki, DMAVA Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, presented the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal and other honors to nearly 50 veterans who served in all conflicts. (Photo by Sgt. Wayne Woolley, DMAVA/PA)

The Sunshine Foundation, a non-profit organization, flew more than 100 children to Disney World on May 3 as part of Operation Dreamlift event. The event’s mission is to send chronically ill and physically challenged children, plus parents and chaperones, on a day-long trip to Disney World. The event opened at 6 a.m. at the NJ National Guard hangar at Mercer County Airport in West Trenton. (Courtesy Photo)

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Brig. Gen. James J. Grant – Director, Joint Staff
Raymond Zawacki – Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs
CW2 Patrick Daugherty – Public Affairs Officer
Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez - Public Affairs Specialist
Sgt. Wayne Woolley – Public Affairs Specialist
Lunchtime lecture series: New Jersey and the politics of the Civil War
Noted historian to present lecture at the Trenton War Memorial

TRENTON – On Thursday, May 19, the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey’s Trenton War Memorial Annex will host a noontime lecture by assistant curator Joseph G. Bilby, which will present untold and long-forgotten stories of New Jerseyans and how they coped with the Civil War and its memory.

“The arrival of the Civil War Sesquicentennial [150th anniversary of the conflict] provides Garden State residents with an excellent opportunity to learn more about our state’s contribution to the Union war effort,” said Bilby, the author or editor of 14 books on New Jersey’s history. “Especially with regard to the politics of the day, there is a treasure trove of interesting people and stories that left their mark on our history.”

Bilby will discuss, with slide illustrations, the stories of African-American communities in South Jersey that fought off slave catchers before the war.

In addition, he will tell the story of the “Hoboken Bounty Jumper Sting” in which the Jersey City mayor lost the city’s money but won re-election anyway. And in homage to attention seekers both past and present, he will discuss Gen. Judson Kilpatrick’s politically inspired “Great Reunion,” one of the first postwar reenactments that more closely resembled a three ring circus.

Highlighting the long struggle for equality, Bilby will also offer a history of the 1961 New Jersey Civil War Centennial Commission’s principled stand against racism.

“Most everyone remembers the Gettysburg Address, Sherman’s March, and the Emancipation Proclamation,” said 1st Lt. Vincent Solomeno, historian for the New Jersey National Guard and the museum’s curator. “The goal of this lecture is to increase public awareness of the sometimes consequential, often times humorous, history of New Jersey politics in the Civil War era.”

“New Jersey and the Politics of the Civil War” is the first of a series of lunchtime lectures highlighting the people, places, and events that shaped New Jersey’s Civil War experience. It will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, at the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey’s Trenton War Memorial Annex. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

For more information, please visit http://www.nj.gov/military/museum.

Family Caregivers eligible for expanded support, services

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published the interim final rule for implementing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010. This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 Veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary Family Caregiver.

Additional services for primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and service members include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program.

Veterans and their family caregivers can apply for the new services starting May 9 at www.caregiver.va.gov.

Information on additional resources is also available to Family Caregivers through VA’s National Caregiver Support Line, 1-877-222-8387.
DMAVA picnic scheduled June 3

Come join us for the TAG’s annual DMAVA/JFHQ’s Picnic! The event will be held on June 3, next to the HSCOE building at the DMAVA campus at approximately noon. Cost will be $10 if paid in advance and $12 at the entrance on the day of the event.

The menu will consist of sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, potato and macaroni salads, coleslaw, baked beans, ice cream and beverages.

Dress is appropriate picnic attire, so bring your shorts and sandals.

Furthermore, there will be a town hall meeting at 11 a.m. prior to the picnic at the Lawrenceville armory drill floor. Attendance to the town hall meeting is mandatory. For those employees choosing to not attend the picnic, it will be a full and normal workday and they must return to their regular duty station.

Buses will be provided for those attending the town hall meeting from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst areas.

Contact your department representative for tickets:
DMAVA – Dawn Baulo at 609-530-6717; Tina Taylor at 609-530-7170; Karen Hansen at 609-530-6868; and Carl Lang at 609-530-6961.

JBMDL – Barbara Alcott at 609-562-0870; and Paul Thompson at 609-562-0915.

HSCOE – Kevin Hearn at 609-530-7069

Picnic attendees are encouraged to bring lawn or portable chairs.

NJNG to celebrate Unity Day

The New Jersey National Guard will host its 13th Annual Unity Day Celebration on Thursday, June 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Joint Force Headquarters in Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Come celebrate the ethnic, cultural, and organizational diversity of the New Jersey National Guard through food sampling, music, entertainment, educational displays, and dessert contest and giveaways.

Fun activities and community service projects will include a Zumba class; fun walk/run; and a blood drive and bone marrow registration.

Registration for these activities will be required:
Zumba – on site registration from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Fun walk/run – on site registration from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Blood drive and bone marrow registration – at the rear of JFHQ building from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The point of contact for the event is Army Maj. Barbara Brown-Wilson, state equal employment manager. Brown-Wilson can be contact via phone at 609-562-0856 or via E-mail at Barbara.g.brown@us.army.mil.

The Joint Force Headquarters building is located at 3650 Saylors Pond Road in JB MDL.

E-mail your Highlights submissions to wayne.woolley@njdmava.state.nj.us OR armando.vasquez@njdmava.state.nj.us

Veterans Outreach Schedule

May 21
American Legion Post No. 65
Lake Ave & Holly Street, Metuchen, N.J. 08840
Outreach Event Only 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 24 - 26
Paramus Park Mall
700 Paramus Park, Paramus, N.J. 07652
Medal ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on May 24
Daily Kiosk hours 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

June 2-3
Wildwood Convention Center
4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, N.J. 08260
Elks State Convention: June 2-3, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
OUTREACH EVENTS ONLY
American Legion State Convention: June 8-10, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
VFW State Convention: June 15-17, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

June 4
Monmouth Park
“Armed Forces Day”
175 Oceanport Ave, Oceanport, N.J. 07757
Outreach Event Only 10:30 a.m. – end of last race

DMAVA to host Memorial Day event

All department employees and their families are invited to attend the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs annual Memorial Day commemoration on Saturday, May 28 at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, N.J.

Ceremonies will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a parade of color guards from various veteran organizations led by the Cemetery’s Joint Honor Guard. A Memorial Day service will follow at 11:00 a.m.

The cemetery is located at 350 Province Line Road in Wrightstown.
Monmouth Park Race Club to host Armed Forces Day June 4

To honor and salute past and present veterans and military service members, the Monmouth Park Race Club will host their first ever “Armed Forces Day” on Saturday June 4 at the Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport, N.J.

The general public and all members of the military are encouraged to attend the special day, which will be filled with spectacular exhibits, music, a fly over, and exhilarating Thoroughbred horse racing.

The scheduled events will consist of a Blackhawk landing at approximately 10:30 a.m. with tours of the helicopter; a military fly over; honor guards from the Army, Navy, and Coast Guards; displays from the Army, Navy, and Marines; antique and military vehicles; and live music from several local bands.

The “Armed Forces Day” event is free to all veterans and military service members with a valid military ID. In addition, general parking will also be free to all veterans and military service members.

A $3 admission will apply for grandstands and $5 for clubhouse admission. Children under the age of 12 will be admitted free.

The event will run from 10:30 a.m. until the end of the last race for the day.

The Monmouth Park Racetrack is located at 175 Oceanport Avenue in Oceanport, N.J.

For details of this event, information about sponsors, parking, and other general questions please visit the Monmouth Park Race Club’s Web site at www.monmouthparkraceclub.com or www.mprc.us or www.monmouthpark.com, or you may also contact Paul M. Travers, president of MPRC, at 732-213-8421 or via E-mail at paulmtravers@gmail.com.

NJJWV holds annual legislative breakfast at Tinton Falls

The New Jersey Jewish War Veterans held their annual Legislative Breakfast on May 1, to a crowd of nearly 200 members, spouses and friends at the Double Tree Hotel in Tinton Falls.

The program started with the outline of the state and federal legislative goals for the next 12 months. Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, addressed the crowd regarding the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs commitment to all veterans and Gov. Chris Christie’s support to the department in order to provide services statewide.

The Jewish War Veterans honored Congressman Frank Pallone for his concern for veterans’ issues, and presented plaques to representatives of all three state Veterans Memorial Homes and the two Veterans Administration hospitals for their efforts to veteran’s community.

Free state registry Web site available for NJ anglers

Attention saltwater anglers. There is a federal mandate that requires everyone 16 or older to register and carry with them a printed registration when fishing in New Jersey’s saltwater.

Effective May 4, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has launched the state’s free web-based saltwater fishing registry, keeping recreational saltwater fishing in New Jersey a sport that anyone can enjoy without having to pay fees.

All saltwater anglers and for-hire vessel operators will now be able to register through the no-fee State system rather than the fee-based federal system.

Those who fish from a for-hire party or charter fishing vessel that is registered with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program are not required to file for an individual registration.

Everyone 16 or older must register and carry the printed registration with them when fishing. People who fish for shellfish such as crabs, clams or lobster are not required to register, though existing license or permit requirements may be required depending on the gear used.

Any person who fails to register with NJSRRP is subject to a penalty of $300 to $3,000 for a first offense and $500 to $5,000 for subsequent offenses.

Visit NJSRRP’s Web site at: www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov