



A leader in any uniform

By Donna Clementoni, ESGR Public Affairs Liaison

From the front of a college classroom to a warzone in Iraq, Ocean County resident Alan Smith, a retired Marine Corps colonel, has always exemplified leadership.

Depending on his audience, Smith can inspire confidence in his contemporaries, unlock potential and possibilities in those less seasoned, motivate a crowd, or, literally, lead the troops into battle.

As the recently appointed commandant of the New Jersey National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe program, Smith is expected to be role model and mentor to fulfill the mission of providing New Jersey's at risk youths the second chance they need to get their GED diploma and position their life in a positive direction.

The residential program, located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, is funded by the Department of Defense and the State of New Jersey. There is no cost to the cadets who receive meals, housing and uniforms during their 22-week residency.

The Youth ChalleNGe program provides "a highly disciplined environment fostering academics, leadership development, physical training and personal growth to educate and train unemployed youths who have ceased to attend high school."

Smith understands the meaning of personal investment it takes to achieve a goal.

A graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Toms River, Smith enlisted in the Marine Corps in July, 1967. Upon returning home from a tour in Vietnam, he continued his education at Glassboro State College where he graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education and later earned a Master of Arts Degree in

History.

He received his commission as a second lieutenant in March 1975. His final tour of duty was in Baghdad. He retired from the military in 2005.

As a civilian, Smith taught Western Civilization and U.S. History as an adjunct professor at Ocean County College and penned his first historical fiction novel. He also serves as deputy coordinator for the Stafford Township Office of Emergency Management and is on the Board of the New Jersey Red Cross.

In September 2011, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs appointed Smith as the state chairman of the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. He is completing his three-year volunteer term which will end on Oct. 1 days after he applauds the graduates of Challenge Class 40 and prepares for the next arrivals that will report on Oct. 15.

Under his direction, the NJESGR committee received national recognition in advancing the ESGR mission of "creating a culture where all American employers value the military service and sacrifice of their employees."

ESGR's leadership sought Smith to present national level courses to civilian and military service members concerning employers and service member employees.

Notwithstanding his advocacy of America's Citizen Warriors, Smith is ready for his new 'ChalleNGe' – leading a new generation of America's youth toward a promising future.



Photo above: Residents of Veterans Haven North and South overlook the battlefield at the Gettysburg National Military Park as a park tour guide describes the battle of Big Round Top. On Sept. 3, 2014, both Veterans Haven programs joined up and made the trip to Gettysburg, Pa., to tour the Park - one of the most famous sites of the Civil War. Tour guides boarded the buses and gave all aboard a two

hour tour of the battlefield, discussing the importance of the battle, strategy, logistics, casualties and the impact on the outcome of the war. Photo below: The residents of Veterans Haven North and South pose for a picture outside the Gettysburg National Military Park Historical Center. (courtesy photos)





GARRISON RECOGNIZED AT CONFERENCE

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Durinda Garrison, center, is presented the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers by Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, left, former National Guard Association of the United States Vice Chair-Air and Col. Paul Caviness, 2014 NGAUS Awards Committee, during the NGAUS conference at Chicago, Aug. 23, 2014. The award was established to annually recognize the achievements and dedicat-

ed service of Army National Guard Warrant Officers who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, technical skills and professionalism in their services to country and community. Garrison is the Bandmaster for the 63rd Army Band, New Jersey Army National Guard and is one of two female bandmasters in the history of the Army National Guard. (Photo by Tunwa Yee of Edward Fox Photography)

E-mail your Highlights submissions to: mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov

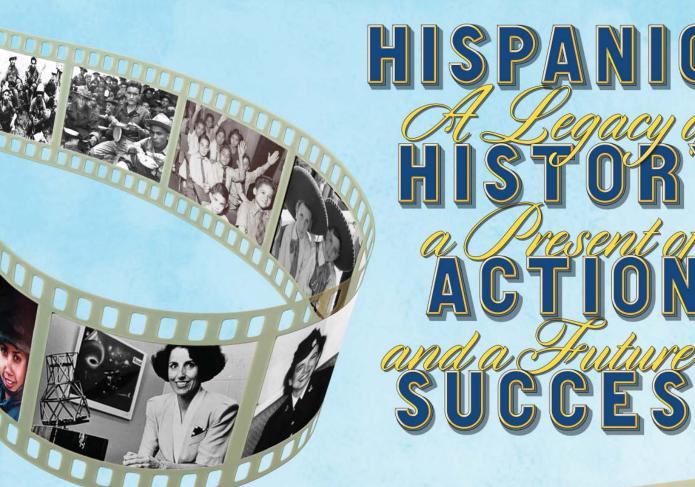
DMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

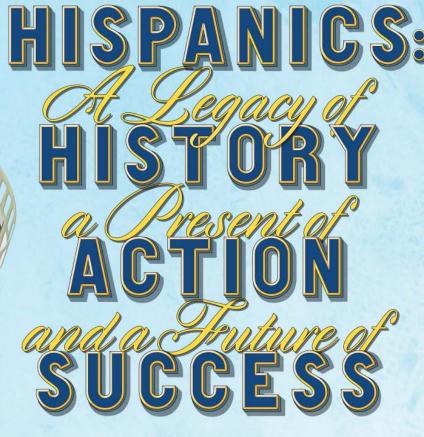


SEPT. 16, 2014: MEDAL CEREMONY & OUTREACH EVENT
American Legion Post #129 – Toms River (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
2025 Church Road, Toms River, New Jersey 08753
DMAVA will have a veteran service officer present to help
and assist any veteran

NOV. 6, 2014: VETERANS' OUTREACH FORUM
Salem Community College (9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)
Davidow Hall Gymnasium
460 Hollywood Avenue, Carney's Point, NJ 08069
DMAVA will have a veteran service officer present to help
and assist any veteran

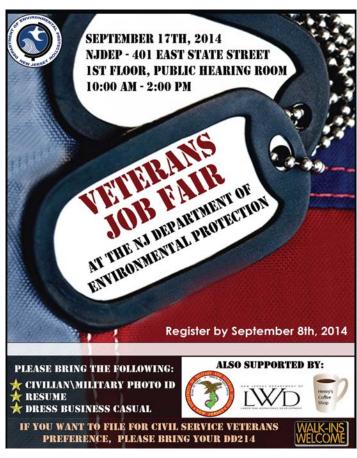
National Hispanic Heritage Month SEP 15-0CT 15, 2014







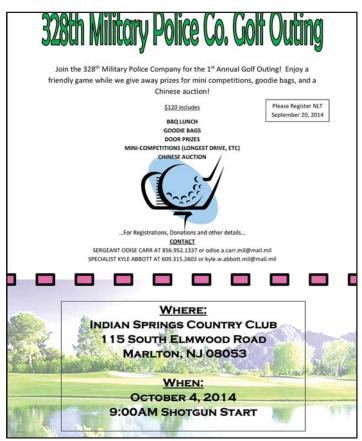






For more details visit:

https://events.recruitmilitary.com





ID CARDS AT BORDENTOWN

ID Cards are available at the Joint Military Family Assistance Center in Bordentown. To schedule an appointment, call (609) 324-7027.



US Family Health Care, a Tricare Prime option, is holding information sessions for service members and families at various locations. Call 1-800-241-4848 option 3 or visit www.usflumet for more information.

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. MOUNT LAUREL LIBRARY Sept. 12 (4 – 6:45 p.m. hourly) 100 Walt Whitman Avenue Mount Laurel, N.J. 08054 **POC: Josephine Grey** (347) 501-2308 EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. 177TH FIGHTER WING **Sept. 18 (12 – 4 p.m. hourly)** 400 Langley Road **Bldg 229** Egg Harbor Twp, N.J. 08234 **POC: Josephine Grey** (347) 501-2308 LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. **NJDMAVA BUILDING** Sept. 23 (11 a.m. – 4 p.m. hourly) 1st Floor/IASD Section 101 Eggerts Crossing Road Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648 **POC: Josephine Grey** (347) 501-2308 FORT DIX, N.J. **HOUSING COMMUNITY CENTER Sept. 15 (12 – 4 p.m. hourly) Building 1134 Hemlock Street** Ft. Dix, N.J. **POC: Josephine Grey** (347) 501-2308

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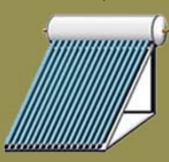
COLTS NECK, N.J. **NAVAL WEAPONS STATION EARLE** Sept. 18 (3 – 7 p.m.) 201 Highway 34 South **Building C29** Colts Neck, N.J. 07722 **POC: Pam Kwiat** (646) 341-2545 **MCGUIRE HOUSING** JIM SAXTON COMMUNITY CENTER Sept. 25 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m. hourly) 3811 South Boiling Street McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641 **POC: Pam Kwiat** (646) 341-2545 **108TH WING AIRMEN & FAMILY READINESS OFFICE** Sept. 17 (1 – 7 p.m.) 3327 Charles Blvd McGuire AFB, N.J. 08641 **POC: Pam Kwiat** (646) 341-2545 **BROWNS MILLS. N.J. PEMBERTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY** Sept. 22 (12 – 4 p.m.) 16 Broadway Street Browns Mills, N.J. 08015 **POC: Pam Kwiat** (646) 341-2545 BLACKWOOD, N.J. **CAMDEN COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS** Sept. 15, 22 (11 a.m. - 3 p.m. hourly) 3 Collier Dr. Lakeland Complex Blackwood, N.J. 08012 **POC: Wil Acosta** (646) 300-1312

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP OF THE WEEK

Solar water heating systems cost more upfront com-

pared to traditional systems; however, a solar water heater could cut your water heating bills by 50 to 80 percent!

(Picture from ENER-GY STAR website www. energystar.gov/products/ certified-products/detail/ water-heater-solar)



Did You Know?

Installing an ENERGY STAR certified solar water heater will cut your emissions in half and prevent 4,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere every year.

If you would like more information about our energy and water conservation efforts, please contact Christopher Moore, Energy Manager at christopher.moore@dmava.nj.gov