



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
POST OFFICE BOX 340
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0340

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor
Commander-in-Chief

SHEILA OLIVER
Lieutenant Governor

★
LISA J. HOU, D.O.
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

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For immediate release

Day of Service Honors Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Trenton, NJ – New Jersey’s three veteran nursing homes conducted a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

The special observances were designed to inspire reflection on the spirit of volunteerism and service to others in the wake of King’s legacy.

Participants included homes’ leadership, staff, and residents; leaders from Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America; Senator Joseph Vitale, Chair, State Senate Health Committee; Senator Joseph Cryan, Chair, State Senate Military and Veteran Affairs Committee; students from Cumberland County College; U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Lisa J. Hou, D.O., The Adjutant General of New Jersey; Vincent Solomeno, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs; and other senior New Jersey National Guard leaders.

Events included meet-and-greets with the senators, college students and DMAVA leaders, town square talks by selected speakers, a civil rights history quiz game, and impactful musical tributes such as “Rise Up” by Andra Day.

“It is so important to take time to reflect on the meaning of service,” said Hou. “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gives us so much through his example and his teachings. When we put service before self, when we summon courage and take risks to forge a better path for others, we make a meaningful impact in our community and the lives of others.”

Observed each year on the third Monday in January, MLK Jr. Day is the only holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. Veteran leaders, elected officials, military personnel, and department staff joined together to honor the Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and Gold Star Families who call the facilities home.

Photos are available at:

<https://flickr.com/photos/64681572@N06/albums/72177720305305329/>

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NJDMAVA Public Affairs Office

feedback@dmava.nj.gov

(609) 530-6942

Maj Agneta Murnan, State PAO

agneta.murnan.2@us.af.mil

(585) 532-0937

MAJ Amelia Thatcher, Deputy PAO

amelia.c.thatcher.mil@army.mil

(609) 530-6945

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