



NJVN NOW

The New Jersey Veterans Network Newsletter

VOL. 1, ISSUE 2

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10.4.2020

Operation Rebound Tribute to 9/11



On

September 11th the NJVN sports team "Operation Rebound" worked with Mendham High School to create a tribute day in remembrance of the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001.

Michael Boll coordinated speakers former NYPD commissioner Bernard Kerik, NYFD Matt Franzreb, and Army combat veteran Gene Spillane to share their 9-11 experiences with the students.

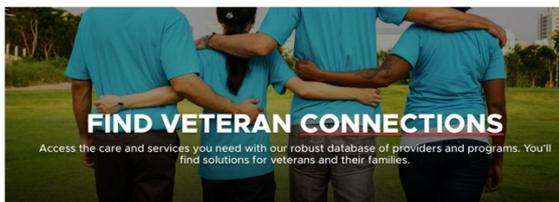


Later, Mendhams' high school teams walked together in Unity while carrying American flags!

ROGER IS COMING FOR YOU NJ VETERANS!

Ever spend countless hours hunting down a program to find out that you **don't** qualify? Us too! As individuals who have gone through the process, we know how challenging it can be and that's why we created ROGER.

ROGER



ROGER is a personalized search tool that allows Veterans, Spouses & family members to search for help using their zip code, income and other demographic factors so you know you're getting the correct support you deserve. We've spent hours testing the platform with folks just like you; Veterans of all ages, branches, discharge statuses PLUS military spouses, and family members of Veterans.

ROGER will be launching in November. **Want to be the first to know about the launch?** Sign up with your email here for all the latest updates: www.backpacksforlife.org/roger

Submitted by Backpacks for Life



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Free School Supplies for Kids !

Submitted by VFW Post 2319



Due to Covid 19 closures, the Milltown VFW Post 2319 was unable to have their normal fundraising events. This is not stopping us from our commitment to the NJ military. Our annual backpack program was a success. With the delays in school openings there are more backpacks going to McGuire/ Dix Joint Base next week.

NJVN Animal of the Month

Although there are many beautiful horses as part of the "Unbridled Heroes Projects" Equine Therapy program in Bergen County, there is just something extra special about "Rocket" their energetic mini. We salute you and your work with Vets Rocket!. For more info about UHP check out Unbridledheroes.org

-Doc Schupp



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Shadow, the Dog that Delivers... TO VETS !



On Monday September 7th our hero pup Shadow: America's pup packed up his van with food and water donated from the New Jersey Veterans Network and dropped it all off to a local Veterans facility to support their BBQ!

He then hung out with some great vets and put some smiles on their faces. They took him for some walks outside and he got some belly rubs! God bless our Veterans and God bless Americas pup!



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR MA 22'S OPERATION RUCK IT

Contributed by MA 22

Veteran advocacy nonprofit Ma Deuce Deuce (Ma22) recently completed their biggest fundraiser of the year, Operation: Ruck iT. The 22k Ruck march event held virtually this year due to COVID restrictions still reared in \$38,250 and had over 250 participants all across NJ with other teams reporting from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Arizona and even Hawaii!

Ma22 President, Marine veteran Dennis Adesso was overwhelmed with the response from our community and supporters. "With several events canceled due to COVID19, we were worried if the mission would continue since our assistance hasn't ceased while means to replace funds did". Ma22 is grateful for a community that continues to open their hearts and wallets in support of their mission; to raising awareness of the "22 daily Veteran suicides" epidemic as well as providing Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) a diversity of restorative and therapeutic programs/non-profit organizations at no cost to the veteran. The funds raised will be used to help veterans with unmet needs, but to begin the next step for the organization, securing a "home", or the "Ma22 Wellness Center" to be used as a haven for veterans and other nonprofits.



A charity softball game is scheduled for October 14th in Lacey NJ. Local veterans will be defending their championship title against the coaches of the Lacey Girls Softball team league. Last year, they were victorious 27-7... with a whole new arsenal of bearded, disgruntled vets to take to the plate, we expect another merciless victor

Anyone interested in MA22, their mission, and events, can check out www.ma22.org or search "ma deuce deuce" on Facebook and Instagram or contact info@ma22.org.



Veteran Businesses on the Rise



Veteran entrepreneurship here in New Jersey is growing. On 28 September the American Legion Department of New Jersey celebrated the achievements of some of the most notable members of our community.

The cool part is that it was held at Torrie Fisher's brewery, Backward Flag (<https://www.backwardflagbrewing.com/>) during her celebration of 5 years in business. It was great to see her receive the Veteran Owned Business of the Year award to mark the achievement. She also founded a non profit: Arms 2 Artisans which Arms to Artisans (<https://www.arms2artisans.com/about>) that helps veterans jump start their way to entrepreneurship.

Arms 2 Artisans was well represented that day by Joey Mac Dizon, USMC Veteran and owner of The Mobile Cigar Lounge (<https://themobilecigarlounge.com/>), a startup which is already seeing success in the marketplace.

Air Force Veteran Shy Hopkins was awarded Veteran Small Business Counselor of the Year for her work at the New Jersey Small Business Development Center (<https://njsbdc.com/>).

Jeff Cantor, Army Veteran and founder of the New Jersey Veteran's Chamber of Commerce (<https://njveteranschamber.com/>) was awarded the Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year award. Jeff is also the CEO of Lima Charlie Construction (<http://www.limacharlieconstruction.com/>).

Mike Steadman, USMC Veteran and Owner of Ironbound Boxing won the Veteran Owned Business of the Year Award for businesses under 3 years. Mike's Ironbound Boxing (<https://ironboundboxing.org/>), that is a hybrid organization where the for profit side fuels the Ironbound Boxing Academy, a community youth focused boxing academy. He has recently initiated the Thrive program, fostering youth entrepreneurship.

Brett D'Alessandro, USMC Veteran and his partner Alexa Modero received the Homeless Outreach award for their hard work through Backpacks For Life (<https://www.backpacksforlife.org/>) an organization that has done meaningful work in addressing the veteran homeless population. Brett and Alexa are also partners in United States Manufacturing Company (<https://www.usmcppe.com/>) A Service Disabled Veteran Owned domestic manufacturer of PPE.

These entrepreneurs have stood out amongst a growing population of veteran entrepreneurs, what is also evident is that they are mutually supporting, not only through work with the NJ Veterans Chamber and the American Legion's efforts but also through their inter personal communications where they coach and encourage each other.

Contributed by Eugene Spillane



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Ever wonder what it was like to be an active duty soldier on 9/11 ?



Ever wonder what it was like to be a soldier on September 11th 2001??...

I remember being called at 11pm and being told to pack my bags and equipment and report to the aid station immediately prepared for duty.

At the time I was a Combat Medic with the 2nd battalion 7th Infantry part of the famed 3rd Infantry Division. So, I knew we were near the top of the list to deploy. I remember that moment filling me with a million emotions. I had never wanted to deploy so much in my life.

At the time I was so angry, I used to be able to see the twin towers from the window of the apartment building where I grew up. they were a part of me. I was a soldier in one of the baddest ass Divisions in the country and I just wanted to act. It was our duty. We had lost so many Americans. On the other hand I looked at my wife who was visibly shaken up, concerned and in tears. I loved her so much and hated myself myself for putting her through even this much.

To this day I still dont understand why were called in, we stood around till sun up than were sent home. I wouldn't deploy until years later. But I dont think there was a single soldier there standing around in the middle of the night who wasnt hungry to act..

-Doc Schupp

RUCKING IN REMEMBRANCE . .



Recently our teammate Robert Bouthillette has created a Military friendly rucking team in south jersey. This team the Raritan Bay Ruckers were born and started off with a 20 plus mile ruck and hasnt lost any momentum. Already this team has grown and honors our service men and women with the teams ability to work together and help one another finish each event. there is nothing

better to see out friend Robert create such an amazing team and we know it will only grow each week. Our veterans are luck to have such an incredible man lead them through each event !

Submitted by Michael Boll



VETERAN WRITTEN WORKS

Grieson

A Prose about that one NCO that influenced us all

Written By: Jamel Dobbins

Edited By: Osa Russell-White

His name struck fear in the hearts of those of junior and senior rank alike.

Big Gorilla Nosed, Ox-faced, Thick fingered, Titan of a Man.

One of the most notable members to shape my military experience.

I was never certain if he hated my black ass or was proud of me,

As if I was an estranged, adopted great grandson he'd thrown in the flames as a seedling

Doubting my survival, Yet I endured, there I was, still standing

Blossoming out of the bottomless pit

Growing, Forming my own opinion of Our world each day

Including – Loving Him.

Forgiving, relinquishing unwarranted hatred – which was

My experience while serving in Arkansas at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Nonetheless I still showed up. Every Day I still showed up.

And he respected me enough not to always disown me.

Greison was something else!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

STAND DOWNS FOR VETERANS IN SOUTH JERSEY

IF YOU ARE OR KNOW OF A VET IN NEED IN THE PLEASANTVILLE OR AC AREAS PLEASE CHECK OUT

THESE STAND DOWNS IN SOUTH JERSEY

Atlantic City Regional Stand Down—Mobile
Serving Homeless and At Risk Veterans

Pleasantville

Friday, October 9, 2020
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Max Manning Complex
1100 Lincoln Ave.
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Services Include:
VA Medical Mental Health Benefits Claims Housings
Employment Men's & Women's Clothing
Lunch Products Other Services

SPONSORS
The American Legion Family American Red Cross Veterans Administration
Camden Catholic Charities Disabled American Veterans Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Military and Veteran Affairs NJ Casino Commission

Questions or Comments—Please Contact
Pat Carney (302) 358-9736 Bob Looby (908) 894-0746

Atlantic City Regional Stand Down—Mobile
Serving Homeless and At Risk Veterans

Atlantic City

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Parking Lot
9 N. Georgia Ave.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Services Include:
VA Medical Mental Health Benefits Claims Housings
Employment Men's & Women's Clothing
Lunch Products Other Services

Questions or Comments—Please Contact
Pat Carney (302) 358-9736 Jim Scanlon (732)306-9268

AMERICAN LEGION POST 310 LITTLE FERRY EVENTS

OCTOBER 15TH \$6.00 CHEESESTEAK NIGHT 4-8PM

OCTOBER 16TH FREE FOOD FOR OKTOBERFEST 5PM



OCTOBER 20TH TACO TUESDAY \$6 ALL YOU CAN EAT!!! 4PM-8PM

OCTOBER 23RD THIN CRUST PIZZA \$6 4PM-8PM

OCTOBER 31ST HALLOWEEN PARTY COSTUMES OPTIONAL, BRING A DISH, DJ JACK SPINNING TUNES! STARTS AT 7PM

LEGION POST 310 100 LIBERTY ST, LITTLE FERRY, NJ 07643

THE BEST THIN CRUST PIZZA

\$6.00 OUTSIDE EVENT
ADD \$1.00 FOR EVERY EXTRA TOPPING

