

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 8, 2016



# "BATTLE OF THE TITANS"

By Jeremiah Mills



A brilliant blue sky greeted the veterans of Veterans Haven North (VHN) and Veterans Haven South (VHS) at Hampton Borough Park June. 22.

VHN and VHS battled head-to-head in the 1st Annual Softball Championship. The day was reminiscent of the iconic volleyball scene in "Top Gun" except with veterans, and of course, softball.

Veterans Haven South softball Coach Paul "The Pope" Phillips, one of four team coaches to include VHS Supervisor Maria Rivera and team captain/assistant Coaches Jamar Simmons and first basemen Harold Richardson of the VHS Devils, were chosen to lead and manage all fellow participating VHS veterans in a morale-boosting championship game.

"As a Coach, it's my goal to lead my team to victory by using teamwork and focus but at the same time there are no winners

and there no losers out on the field," said Phillips. "However, no matter how hard our opponents played my team, my brothers and sisters, my fellow vets focused and brought the championship home by playing their hearts out on the field."

"Hard work pays off and it did when it came to make mid-game adjustments," said Jamar Simmons, Team Captain of the VHS Devils. "By the third inning we were down 15-6. Once we made those adjustments, we took command of the lead and never looked back."

As VHS and VHN battled it out, the veterans put their all into a melee of RBIs', grand slams and home runs followed by a spectacular showing of defensive skills resulting in a double play in the sixth inning that swung the game's momentum in VHS's favor.

In the sixth inning, the VHS Devils put on a herculean effort that concluded in a 14 to one run in the last two innings of the game.

Short-stop Guy Williams most valuable player of the game, scored a single, double, a triple, three RBIs'. VHS team members include: Pitcher Jeremy Grant as well as first baseman C.J. Caruso, second basemen Rafique Roebuck, third basemen Mark Griffith, right-fielder Dervell James, outfielders Mike Owens, Justin Minus, Jennifer Salas and Ivory Ward,

and umpire Julie Whipple gave an herculean effort in the game that was paramount in the team's defensive/offense softball prowess.

"I must give Coach Phillips and my peers the ultimate compliment in that they heard my advice put some of those suggestions into action," said Harold Richardson, Assistant Coach. "Ultimately our collective efforts allowed us to seize the victory."

As the dust settled, VHS emerged victorious in a 32-16 victory over VHN.

"The softball championship is all in the spirit of goodwill wholesome fun between fellow veterans but we definitely came to play. We came to win and we did," said Walter Nall, Superintendent, Veterans Haven South.

"It only seemed like the natural thing to do and that was to continue our friendship in the medium of "brotherhood trips" where VHS and VHN will go on trips to the Statue of Liberty and the Lincoln mall in Washington, D.C., and events such as this softball game," said Sean Van Lew, Superintendent, Veterans Haven North.

"Ultimately, we're looking to help veterans," said Van Lew. "There is no closer group than veterans. We consider ourselves family, so this event is more of a family picnic or a family reunion rather than a competition. We are vets helping vets."

## Cover: Family day

*Cadets with the New Jersey Youth HalleNge Academy, located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, enjoy with their families at the National Guard Armory in Mount Holly, N.J., July 8, 2016. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Mark Olsen/Released)*

# McLean assumes command of the 57th

By Staff Sgt. Sherwood T. Goodenough, 444th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

On Feb. 25, 1991, a young commander watched the horizon as the ground war in Iraq began, filling the desert skies with the rattle and hum of combat. He was serving in a brigade that had not seen combat since the Vietnam War.

A quarter of a century later, that same officer, Col. Michael A. McLean, returned to command that same unit.

He enlisted in the 57th Troop Command in 1986 as a medic. Pfc. McLean could not have joined a more different brigade than the one Col. McLean took command of June 25 at the Atlantic City Armory.

Uniforms were green, cellular phones were the size of a carry-on luggage, and the United States had not had a major military engagement for more than a decade.

McLean graduated from officer candidate school in 1988. Two years later, as commander of the 328th Transportation Detachment, his unit spent the summer of 1990 on its annual training period working alongside units from the Active Duty and Reserve components moving people and personnel up the eastern coast.

On August 2, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's forces invaded Kuwait. Five days later, President George H. W. Bush ordered American service members into Operation Desert Shield and later Operation Desert Storm.

"It was surreal, everything happened so quickly," McLean said. "Every unit I had trained with that summer at annual training was called up one by one."

In October, his unit was in Saudi Arabia, the 15 years of peacetime had ended and during his 30 years in the Army,



**Col. Michael A. McLean, left, receives the 57th Troop Command colors from Col. Edward Chrystal Jr., Land Component Commander, New Jersey Army National Guard, at the change of command ceremony at the National Guard Armory in Atlantic City, N.J., June 25, 2016. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Devlin Drew/Released)**

most of the last 25 has been at a fierce operations tempo.



**2nd Lt. Michael A. McLean, second from right, Commander, 328th Transportation Detachment, New Jersey Army National Guard in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm 1991. (U.S. Army National Guard photo/Released)**

During his career constant change required extraordinary flexibility and only one thing remained constant: steadfast devotion to the women and men he led, he said.

"If you always take care of your Soldiers, you'll always come out ahead," McLean said. "I've had some outstanding senior officers

that I've served under and they instilled those values in me."

With three decades of experience in four different uniforms behind him he said the maxim of putting Soldiers first has always held true as an enlisted Soldier or an officer, during peacetime or in combat, he said.

Prior to taking command of the 57th Troop Command, McLean served as the Deputy G-4 (supply) for the New Jersey Army National Guard, and before that as Commander of the 250th Brigade Support Battalion. Born in Atlantic City, raised in Pleasantville and educated at both Seaton Hall and Rutgers, McLean's life and career have taken him around the state, the country and across the Atlantic Ocean.

"I've seen both sides of the spectrum," McLean said. "I can appreciate what Soldiers do from the junior enlisted on up.

"You take care of them, and they'll try to walk through walls for you."

# Hotline dedicated to serving women veterans

From the Center for Women Veterans

As part of VA's goal to implement improvements to its health care for women Veterans, the VA recently launched the new Women Veterans hotline—1-855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)—an incoming call center that receives and responds to questions from women veterans, their families, and caregivers about available VA services and resources.

During the past decade, the number of women using VA health care has more than doubled, from nearly 160,000 to more than 360,000 in 2012. Women now make up 15 percent of active duty and 18 percent of Guard/Reserves service members.

Based on the upward trend of women in all branches of service, the number of women Veterans and female VA users is expected to double again in the next decade.

While the number of women VA users continues to grow, women comprise only six percent of VA's total patient population. The VA has found that women Veterans underutilize VA care, largely due to a lack of knowledge about VA benefits and available services. In response, we established an outbound Call Center in 2010 to contact women veterans and encourage them to try VA care. This service has been expanded, and telephone agents now receive incoming calls and inquiries about VA care and other services for women.

"The Women Veterans Call Center is aimed at increasing women veterans' knowledge of all VA services and benefits that they deserve," said Krista Stephenson, an Army veteran and the current Women Veterans Call Center Director.

The telephone agents have received training regarding services that the VA provides for women veterans. They are informed about eligibility, benefits, health care and other services, and can route



calls within VA when needed. These trained VA employees can also respond to crisis situations such as suicidal behavior, homelessness, sexual trauma, and domestic violence.

1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636) provides a single avenue for women veterans to get the help they need.

"They just have the one number to call and our telephone agents will be able to direct them appropriately and to provide them the information that they need," said Stephenson. "We also have established agreements for warm handoffs to VA

programs such as the Veterans Crisis Line and the Caregiver Support Line. We are also working collaboratively with other VA Departments for those veterans who have questions regarding VA benefits and health eligibility."

In cases where the Call Center transfer callers to other VA offices, our telephone agents are instructed to follow-up within 30 days to ensure that women veterans received the services they needed. This is just one way that we ensure our beneficiaries do not fall through the cracks.

We hope to meet the unique needs of women veterans by delivering the highest quality of health care to each woman, while offering privacy, dignity, and sensitivity to gender-specific needs. VA provides a full continuum of care, including comprehensive primary care, mental health services, as well as emergency and specialty care. In addition, VA provides gynecology services, maternity care, caregiver support, crisis support and help for homeless veterans. With one phone call, women veterans can discover all the VA has to offer.



## Menlo receives donation

Frank Specht, left, Union County Bowling Association presented two checks to Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO, New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park for the Home's residents June 30, 2016. (Courtesy photo)



**THE AMERICAN LEGION, VBOC OF NYC & NJ AND THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PRESENT A FREE, ONE DAY PROGRAM WITH A COMPREHENSIVE 8 WEEK ON-LINE COURSE FOR VETERANS WHO WANT TO START, EXPAND OR PURCHASE A SMALL BUSINESS. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT:**

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[Eugene.Spillane@SBA.gov](mailto:Eugene.Spillane@SBA.gov) / 973-645-2427



# NJDMAVA Veterans Affairs POCs

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1-888-8NJ-VETS(8387) or [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)



Raymond L. Zawacki, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs (609-530-7062)  
Cheryl Henderson, Executive Secretarial Assistant (609-530-7045)  
Chuck Robbins, Assistant to DCVA/Outreach Coordinator (609-530-6855)

Fax: 609-530-7191

## Veterans Healthcare Services (DVHS)

<b>Colonel Edward J. Chrystal Jr., Director</b> 609-530-6967 Donna Myers, Sec 609-530-6768 Virginia Fiess, QA Coordinator 609-530-6979 Fax: 609-530-6970	<b>Menlo Park Veterans Memorial Home</b> Joseph Brandspiegel, CEO Jennifer Pajak, Sec 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013 Edison, NJ 08818-3013 732-452-4102 Fax: 732-603-3016	<b>Paramus Veterans Memorial Home</b> Dianne Tabron-Felder, CEO Diane Callaghan, Sec 1 Veterans Drive Paramus, NJ 07652 201-634-8525 Fax: 201-967-8658	<b>Vineland Veterans Memorial Home</b> Allyson Bailey, Acting CEO Sharon Frye, Sec 524 North West Boulevard Vineland, NJ 08360-2895 856-405-4207 Fax: 856-696-6714
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## Veterans Services (DVS)

<b>Albert J. Bucchi, Director</b> 609-530-6962 Cynthia Barnes, Sec 609-530-6975 Fax: 609-530-7075	<b>Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery</b> Ivon Dumas, State Supt – 609-738-2424 Genia DiBella, Sec – 609-738-2404 Cyndi Dzurisin, Internment Office Supervisor, – 609-738-2407 Dennis Macomber, Honor Guard, – 609-758-7505 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562 609-738-2400 Fax: 609-758-0169 <i>Maintenance/Cemeteries/Memorials</i> Joseph Arroyo & Kenneth Smith Supervisor, 609-738-2408 Fax: 609-758-3490	<b>Vietnam Veterans Memorial</b> 1 Memorial Lane, PO Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733 732-335-0033 Fax: 732-335-1107 <b>Korean Memorial</b> Boardwalk/Brighton Park, Atlantic City, NJ 08401 <b>War World II Memorial</b> W State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608	<b>Veterans Haven South</b> Walter Nall, Supt – 609-561-4948 <i>Vacant, Asst, Supt – 609-567-3715</i> Carisa Shufford, Admin. Receptionist 609-561-4990 ext. 120 301 Spring Garden Road, PO Box 80 Winslow, NJ 08095 609-561-0269 Fax: 609-567-5186	<b>Veterans Haven North</b> Sean VanLew, Supt – 908-537-1960 Laura Blaine, Sec – 908-537-1963 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101 Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 908-537-1999 Fax: 908-537-1990
<b>State Approving Agency-GI Bill Programs</b> Charles Rowe, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6842 Marisol Meyer, Education Prog Asst – 609-530-6849 Lynn Yesalonina, State Admin – 609-530-6858 Joan Edwards, State Admin – 609-530-6948 Fax: 609-530-7196	<b>Veterans Benefits Bureau</b> Patricia A. Richter, Bureau Chief – 609-530-6949 Elizabeth Schofield, Prin Staff Officer – 609-530-6954 Paul Kale, Staff Asst – 609-530-6826 <i>Vacant, Sec – 609-530-6868</i> Michele Johnson, Sec – 609-530-7035 Fax: 609-530-6970	<b>Veterans Service Offices</b> Joseph Bucco, State Supervisor – 609-530-6830 Christopher Wambach, State Supervisor – 609-530-6863 Joseph E. Nlyzo, VSO – 609-530-6857 <b>VA Regional Office/Philadelphia</b> Charles Piscopo, VSO – (Mon., Wed., Alternate Fridays) 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144 856-853-4184/4185/4186		
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<b>Camden/GloUCEster</b> Joseph Frost, VSO Charles Piscopo, VSO (Tuesdays and Thursdays) Diane Rosci, Sec 658 N Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury 08096 – (Woodbury Armory) 856-853-4184/4185/4186 Fax: 856-384-3781 (closed alternate Fridays)	<b>Essex/Union</b> Robert Maulano, VSO Shelley Darby, Sec 20 Washington Place, Room 439, Newark 07102-3174 973-297-3230 Fax: 973-648-2356	<b>Hudson</b> Esther Chucaralao, VSO Michael Dorobis, Sec 678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Jersey City 07306 – (Jersey City Armory) 201-536-3401 Fax: 201-536-3404 (closed alternate Fridays)		
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## Educating the educators

Reve Anderko, Admissions Representative, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, N.J., tries out the Virtual Interactive Combat Environment system used to train service members at the New Jersey Army National Guard's Joint Training and Training Development Center at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst June 21, 2016. Faculty members from the Brookdale and Salem Community College campuses took part in the NJARNG's Educate the Educator program to learn more about the opportunities for students in the Army Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Eric Bauza/Released)



## Scholarship for wounded guardsmen

The National Guard Education Foundation is offering scholarship grants to current or former National Guard members wounded in an operational or training mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.ngef.org/the-van-hipp-heroes-scholarship-fund/>



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63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE  
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Chatterbox Restaurant,  
1 State Route 15  
Augusta, NJ 07822)

VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL  
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Sept. 20-21

10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Daily

DMAVA medal ceremony Sept. 20 at 11 a.m. at Center  
Court

Bridgewater Commons Mall  
400 Commons Way  
Bridgewater, NJ, 08807

Highlights submissions deadline 4 p.m.  
Wednesday: [mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov](mailto:mark.olsen@dmava.nj.gov)



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