

TO REMEMBER... TO HEAL... TO HONOR...



**NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL**  
**VIETNAM ERA MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

**2016 YEAR-END ACTIVITIES REPORT**



Winter at the Memorial

**GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**Dear Friends of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation (NJVVMF):**

Welcome 2017. The Board, staff and volunteers want to wish you a terrific year. I want you to know that 2016 was a most productive year for the Memorial and Educational Center. We hosted more schools and students on our Vietnam Veteran-led tours of our unique Museum and Memorial. We are proud that NJ taxpayers chose to donate to NJVVMF via line 61 on their New Jersey Income Tax forms and hope you will donate again in 2017. We honored State Senate President, Steve Sweeney at our annual "Salute to Patriotism" in October for his unrelenting commitment to New Jersey's Veterans and active duty service men and women.

A review of 2016 follows, as well a preview of what we're looking forward to during 2017. As always, thank you for all your support.

Best regards,

**Bill Linderman**  
Executive Director

**NJ HISTORICAL COMMISSION GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT GRANT THROUGH 2019**

Once again, the Foundation expresses its sincere gratitude to the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, for its ongoing support through a General Operating Support Grant. The grant demonstrates the Commission's continued belief in our mission and our work.



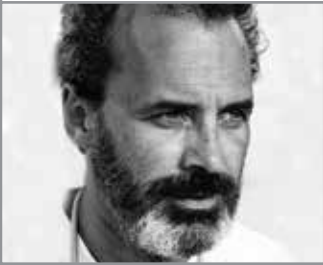


## PASSINGS



### GENE TIMMONS

Gene Timmons was one of the first people to truly believe in the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. Gene worked from the earliest days of the Foundation to raise funds and awareness for the site, eventually leading to the creation of the site as it sits today. Importantly, Gene helped organize the Last Patrol, a group of Vietnam Veterans who walked from the site of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington D.C. to the then future site of our Memorial to raise awareness about the project and garner support for its construction. He remained involved with our work until his passing and was always a strong supporter of the site and the work of the Foundation.



### MICHAEL BUDD

Michael Budd, brother of NJVVMF Trustee Roy Budd, was a longtime friend and supporter of the Foundation. His friendly personality and smile always lit up the room at Foundation events. Mike worked alongside NJVVMF staff in 2012, documenting the Unsung Heroes Collection of art gifted by artist Gregory Perillo. Mike produced the resulting documentary film about Perillo's life and inspiration for the works.

Sadly, we lost two of our Vietnam Veteran Volunteers over the past year.



### JACK CESAR

Jack Cesar served in Vietnam from 1970 through 1972. He was a helicopter pilot and shared his wealth of knowledge and friendly personality with educators and students for many years through his volunteer time at the Foundation. When he was no longer well enough to attend programs in person, he frequently checked in with the staff, sharing excitement about the Foundation's activities.



### RONNIE GILES

Ronnie Giles was a longtime military employee, starting in 1965 when he joined the US Army. He served in Vietnam from 1966-1967 as an Infantryman, Armored Personnel Carrier Driver, Ammo/Radio Man & Tunnel Rat with "A" Troop, 3/4 Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division, Cu Chi RVN. In 1988 Ronnie re-joined the military full-time, alternately serving with the New Jersey and Idaho Army National Guard. For the next ten years, he worked in a wide variety of assignments, including Human Resources Administration, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Transportation, Waste, Fraud and Abuse and Equal Opportunity. Post 9-11, he simultaneously worked in assignments with local, state and federal intelligence and counterintelligence Agencies. Always the entertainer, Ronnie split his time performing for military groups and the general public, sharing his infectious, friendly personality through song and stories.



## 2016 YEAR-END ACTIVITIES REPORT



Sepia Mural Before Restoration



Sepia Mural After Restoration



Salute to Patriotism Gala

## 2016 FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

### MUSEUM CENTERPIECE GETS A FACELIFT: SEPIA MURAL RESTORATION

After nearly 20 years of light exposure, our Sepia Mural – the centerpiece of the Vietnam Era Museum – had aged poorly and many features were faded beyond recognition. Thanks to generous support from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Whitman family, the New Jersey Historical Commission and donations from museum visitors, the Mural was restored to its original quality and color during the summer, 2016. Working closely with the staff at Maltbie based in Mount Laurel, NJ, the Foundation's staff recreated the original Mural ensuring the future visitors to the Museum can enjoy its historical timeline.

### MORE SCHOOL GROUPS VISIT THE NJVVMF IN 2016

In 2016, The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Monmouth County Chapter sponsored three local schools through our Help Us Teach Them Fund. We are always looking for additional support through this program which grants funds to regional schools to cover trip attendance, fees and busing. The past year marked a record for new school attendees, adding to the large group of regional schools we currently work with. These on-site, educational opportunities are an important component in strengthening our relationships with educators across the state. We are grateful to our Vietnam Veteran Tour Guides for making these programs possible and generously sharing their stories.

### SALUTE TO PATRIOTISM GALA

The 2016 New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation Salute to Patriotism Gala celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Memorial and honored Senator Steve Sweeney for his support of veterans and active duty military. The gala was held Thursday, October 27, at the Eagle Oaks Golf and Country Club in Farmingdale, NJ, and welcomed noted legal analyst, Jack Ford, as moderator.

Throughout his long career in public service, Senator Steve Sweeney has dedicated himself to making sure New Jersey Veterans are treated with dignity and respect. The Senator oversaw the passage and enactment of numerous pieces of legislation and programs benefiting Veterans and their families including:

- Veteran to Veteran Peer Support Program telephone hotline
- Military Dependents Scholarship Fund Act
- Veterans Haven Council to protect Veterans against the danger of homelessness
- Tax and incentive programs for Veterans and Veteran-owned businesses
- [The Helmets to Hardhats Program](#)



NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL  
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2016 YEAR-END ACTIVITIES REPORT



Bill Linderman (NJVVMF), Laretta Farrell (AFCUF), Ken and Helen Gurbisz (Captain James M. Gurbisz Foundation), Sarah Taggart (NJVVMF) and Dennis and Marion Zilinski (Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund)

Carlton Rhodes (VVA), Sarah Taggart (NJVVMF), Dennis Bureaugard (VVA), Frank Arminio (VVA), Bill Linderman (NJVVMF), missing from photo Herb Worthington, VVA New Jersey State Council President

### AFFINITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NJVVMF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Foundation is grateful for the continued support of the [Affinity Federal Credit Union Foundation](#). The Foundation supports the work of many worthy non profits in the region through their grant program, truly making a lasting impact on its community. Once again, they will support our annual high school scholarship for 2017, ensuring that two worthy seniors will have less of a financial burden as they start their higher education careers. We are thrilled to have Executive Director, Dr. Laretta Farrell, and Erin Witherspoon believe in our mission.

### NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FUND KIOSK PROJECT

Thanks to a generous donation, the Foundation will be designing a new Memorial kiosk to assist visitors in learning about and locating information for the men and woman on our Wall. The Memorial's original kiosks were destroyed during Superstorm Sandy and have been sorely missed. Through the support of the [State Council](#), the Foundation will replace these kiosks with a standalone unit located inside the Museum's lobby. The kiosk will allow visitors to print and more easily access information about the Memorial. It will also function as a visitor sign-in portal – an electronic version of a traditional sign-in journal – to help improve continued outreach and marketing. This will help the Foundation more easily analyze and understand our community demographics and continue to better serve you.

### LOCAL FAMILY RAISES MORE THAN \$12,000 FOR THE NJVVMF

Chris and Victoria Dean of Marlboro and their son, William, raised more than \$12,000 for the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. The family sold Huey Plaza Pavers to raise donations for the Foundation during a BBQ hosted at their home on August 13. They also collected donations for the Colt's Neck High School Naval ROTC program.

The Deans, both Veterans of the United States Navy, welcomed community members, veterans and ROTC cadets. Deputy Director of the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Serena DiMaso, also attended and spoke about the importance of continuing to fight for government assistance for Veterans.

The pavers sold by the Dean family will be placed in the Huey Plaza in front of the Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center. The public is invited to become a part of the plaza by purchasing paving stones engraved with personal messages of support. [Learn more >](#)



## 2016 YEAR-END ACTIVITIES REPORT



Retired Military Working Dog



Military Working Dogs and Handlers



Senator Menendez



Joe Leone, Nancy Smoyer and Michael Coale

### US SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ INTRODUCES GUARDIANS OF AMERICA FREEDOM MEDAL ACT

The Senator from New Jersey introduced the Guardians of America's Freedom Medal Act at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of US War Dogs Memorial on June 11. Senator Menendez used the special ceremony at the memorial to introduce this legislation that would create the first-ever official Department of Defense commendation for military working dogs and their handlers. The US Military does not currently provide official recognition for military K9 teams.

Since World War I, tens of thousands of dogs have served in the United States Armed Forces and thousands of dogs have died in combat. According to the American Humane Association, each military working dog saves between 150-200 lives during their service. The U.S. Department of Defense reports that there are approximately 2,700 active-duty military working dogs in the U.S. Armed Forces. They are deployed around the world, with a large number serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"These dogs are as much a part of the (military) operation as anyone else," said Senator Menendez. "We can put a Kevlar vest on a military working dog, so we absolutely can recognize the dogs by putting a medal on their collar."

### ONE DONUT DOLLIE RELIVES VIETNAM AT THE WALL: AN IMPACT STORY FROM ONE WHO SERVED

Nancy Smoyer, a Princeton native, was determined to get to Vietnam. In the late 1960's, journalists were one of only two groups of non-combatants allowed near the front lines. The other group was comprised of those who joined the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas team. Nancy wasn't a journalist, but she could join the Red Cross recreation team, and in 1967 – that's exactly what she did.

Nancy became a Donut Dollie. A term held over from World War II, Donut Dollies were morale boosters. They were sent to combat zones and used games and other activities to help American troops distract themselves – even for a little while – from the trauma and trials of war.

The teams went to fire bases and landing zones, but they didn't just play games. The Donut Dollies listened. And they talked. They talked with the soldiers about what was happening and how it was affecting them. They acted as war zone confidants and encouragers.

Nancy was in Saigon, Da Nang, An Khê and Củ Chi. Nancy's brother, Bill, enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was a Second Lieutenant. He arrived in Vietnam in June 1968, where he served with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Three weeks later, he was killed in action near An Hoa. He was 22 years old.

When the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial opened in 1995, Nancy's parents found a solace that had been elusive until they attending that opening ceremony. Bill's name is engraved on the wall. "The Memorial gives validation and understanding to those suffering," said Nancy. "The Memorial and Foundation focus on the family as well as the veterans and the entire community."



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**Sarah Taggart with NJVVMF Volunteers**

**Keri Giannotti**

## STAFF NEWS

### SARAH TAGGART PROMOTED TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Formerly Curator of the Foundation, Sarah has been promoted to Deputy Director. She has been a terrific asset to the Foundation and will be instrumental in planning the future expansion of the Vietnam Era Museum and securing the financial future of the Foundation.

Since joining the NJVVMF, she has designed and implemented a series of updates to the Museum and Educational Center's exhibits. Most recently, she supervised the renovation of the Sepia Mural, a centerpiece of the Museum & Educational Center.

Bill Linderman, Executive Director of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, is delighted by Taggart's promotion, "Sarah is such a strong asset to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. She brings a wealth of knowledge and abilities to our organization and is highly respected by our Board, staff and volunteers. Sarah will be instrumental in planning the expansion of the Vietnam Era Museum and securing the financial future of the Foundation."

Sarah joined the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation as Curator/Coordinator of Educational Resources and Initiatives in 2011. With a background in curatorial work, educational initiatives, non-profit management and fundraising, Sarah brings a well-rounded skill set into her work at the Foundation. Sarah holds a MA in American History from Rutgers University, a MA in Museum Communications from The University of the Arts, and a BS in Archaeology from Mercyhurst University. She values professional development and is a member of various professional museum associations.

### KERI GIANNOTTI JOINS STAFF AS MUSEUM EDUCATOR

The Foundation is proud to welcome New Jersey Educator, Keri Giannotti, to our staff as Museum Educator. Keri has a long history working with the Foundation and other Veterans' organizations including Wreaths Across America. Keri has brought her Bloomfield High School students to the Foundation's Memorial and Museum for many years, instilling a love of history, patriotism and good citizenship in her students. She brings a wealth of educational experience and knowledge to the Foundation which will help our public and school programs expand in exciting ways, ensuring they remain relevant to future generations of educators and students. Keri will also help the site integrate new technology into its exhibits, enhancing visitors' experiences.

Keri holds a MA in American History from Adams State University, a MA in Political Science, and a BA in History and Political Science from Kean University, as well as advanced teaching certifications in teaching the Holocaust and Prejudice Reduction (Kean University), and Educational Supervision (Montclair State University). She has been a teacher in the Social Sciences Department at Bloomfield High School since 2004.



## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2017

In 2016, the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation's programs, services and events attracted more participants than ever before. The impact of the Foundation's work was evident in every interaction with veterans, veteran families, other guests and members of the community.

This year heralds a new chapter in the life of the organization. Education programs will leverage lessons and experiences from our nation's great history to examine and respond to our present cultural and political climate as never before. An expansion of the museum building will allow for improved exhibits and more varied educational programming.

### NEW ANNEX TO THE MUSEUM EXPANDS FOUNDATION CAPACITY FOR EDUCATION AND SERVICE

This Spring finds the Foundation board and staff busy at work preparing to kick off a capital campaign to support the construction of an annex to our existing museum building.

In the two decades since the construction of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center, we have received an outpouring of artifacts and local history from the community and those New Jerseyans who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam Era. The center has become an important place for people across the region to visit, and our staff and programs have grown as a result.

The current footprint of the facility simply does not provide adequate storage – or display and exhibit space – or the ability to expand the current programs.

The proposed 5,300 square foot annex would provide the necessary storage space for the growing collections, increase administration space, incorporate flexible classrooms allowing staff to host educational programs, and expand the exhibition gallery allowing the Foundation to expand its displays and collections. Additional upgrades to the sound system at the memorial site would allow for enhanced events and programs.

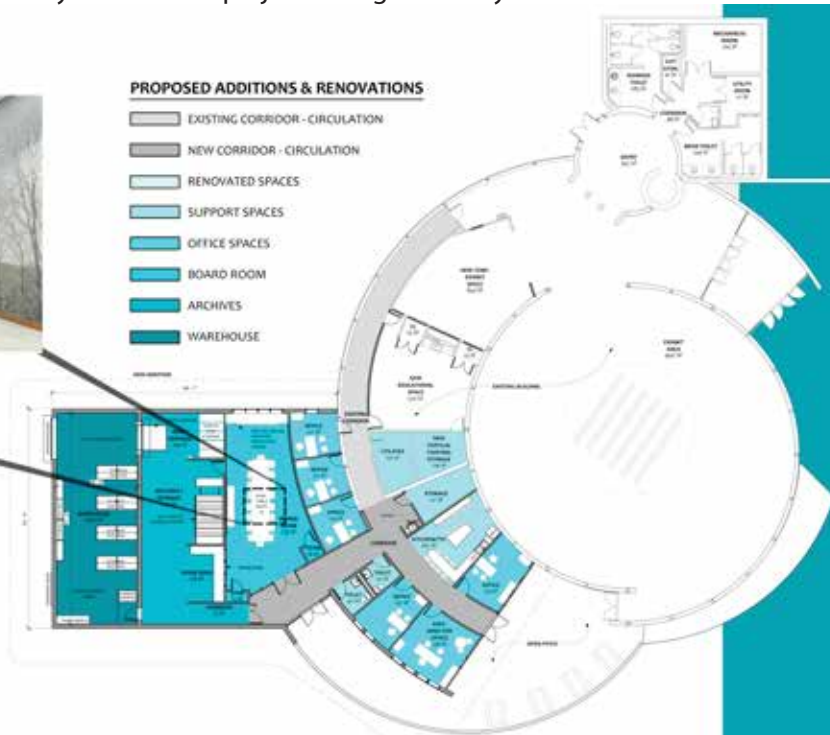
Working closely with Averill Fundraising Solutions, the Foundation is strategically working towards the much needed expansion. If you are interested in supporting or getting involved in the campaign please contact our office. We look forward to sharing updates with you about the project throughout this year!

BOARD ROOM RENDER



PROPOSED ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS

- EXISTING CORRIDOR - CIRCULATION
- NEW CORRIDOR - CIRCULATION
- RENOVATED SPACES
- SUPPORT SPACES
- OFFICE SPACES
- BOARD ROOM
- ARCHIVES
- WAREHOUSE



WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE:  
A PLAN FOR THE ANNEX



## 2016 YEAR-END ACTIVITIES REPORT



Interdisciplinary Forum



Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club

### 15TH ANNUAL INTERDISCIPLINARY FORUM ON THE VIETNAM ERA

**Saturday, March 25, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation invites educators from throughout New Jersey to its annual landmark, interdisciplinary education and training program offered on site at the Museum and Educational Center. This year's theme is **FOR THEM IT ISN'T OVER: OUR VIETNAM ALLIES POST WAR AND IN AMERICA.**

This is a timely topic as teachers struggle to process issues surrounding the current refugee crisis in Syria with their students. The current socio-political climate strongly correlates to that of the Vietnam War era, with many of the issues that created controversy and stimulated activism during the Vietnam War era creating distress and reaction today. This Forum is designed to be a valuable opportunity for educators from multiple disciplines to come together, remember history and put history in context to help inform their teaching.

The annual forum is one of many public and educational programs offered by the Foundation to help educate and support veterans, their families and members of the community. The Foundation's enthusiastic staff, including Veterans of the Vietnam War who serve as volunteer faculty, teach all year long about the Vietnam Era through tours, field trips and outreach programs that bring Veterans to schools with their traveling trunk of artifacts. [Learn more >](#)

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### SAVE THE DATE: NJVVMF 23RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**Monday, June 26, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club, 20 Shore Oaks Drive, Farmingdale, NJ 07727**

Join us for another exciting Golf Outing at Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club.

If you can't join us as a player, please consider supporting the event as a sponsor or silent auction donor.

Sign up now through April 3 for "Early Birdie Special" prices! [Download the flyer >](#)

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**Please check our website at [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org) often for updates and more information about our events and community programs.**





**NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL**  
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**VISIT NEW JERSEY'S TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED**



**Scholarship Tour**

**Vietnamese-American Monument**

**Memorial Day Ceremony**

**Clay Shoot Event**

## 2017 CALENDAR PREVIEW

### APRIL

Saturday, April 1 and April 8  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Free Scholarship Tours of the Memorial**  
No reservations needed, open to the general public

Saturday, April 8 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Battleship NJ Living History Day  
Camden Waterfront**

Visit [www.battleshipnewjersey.org](http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org) for more information

Friday, April 14 • 4:00 p.m.  
**Scholarship Applications Due**  
[Application and details available on website](#)

Saturday, April 29  
**Elks Fundraising Picnic**  
[Check our website for the most current information](#)

Sunday, April 30  
**Vietnamese-American Monument Ceremony**  
[Check our website for the most current information](#)

### MAY

Saturday, May 6 • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Free Tours of the Memorial**  
No reservations needed, open to the general public

Sunday, May 7 • 11:00 a.m.  
**New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance  
Day Ceremony**

Monday, May 29 • 11:00 a.m.  
**Memorial Day Ceremony**

### JUNE

Saturday, June 3 • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Free Tours of the Memorial**  
No reservations needed, open to the general public

Tuesday, June 6 • 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
**Clay Shoot Event**  
Hudson Farm  
[Registration details available on website](#)

Monday, June 26 • 10:00 a.m.  
**Annual Golf Outing**  
Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club  
[Registration details available on website](#)

**Please save the date for our annual Salute to Patriots Gala on Friday, October 27, 2017.**

Check our website at [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org) for the most current information.



NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL  
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LOOKING FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL 2017 WITH YOUR SUPPORT



CHECK LINE 61 ON YOUR NJ INCOME TAX FORM



Restored 1964 Huey Helicopter



Huey Paver

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE NJVVMF

### YEAR-END TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Each tax season New Jerseyans can elect to support a charity via the New Jersey Income Tax form. We thank all of you who contributed last year and hope that you will spread the word about this convenient way to support the Foundation for the 2016 New Jersey tax filing. The tax check-off for New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation is on Line 61 of the 2016 New Jersey Income tax form.

### IN MEMORY DONATIONS

Honor a loved one with a donation to support our programs at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Museum. [Learn more >](#)

### BECOME A MEMBER

NJVVMF relies on the support of its individual, family and corporate members to make its work possible. [Learn more >](#)

### HUEY PAVER

Honor a special Veteran with a forever message and place your message under our Huey helicopter, located at the entrance to our Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center visited by more than 11,000 annually. [Learn more >](#)

### ATTEND OUR CEREMONIES AND TOURS

NJVVMF hosts ceremonies throughout the year for our Veterans, their families, partners and the public. Join us for these events and more. Visit [www.njvvmf.org/events/list](http://www.njvvmf.org/events/list) for updates.

First Saturday Tours ~ Free tours led by NJVVMF's Vietnam Veteran Volunteer Tour Guides are available the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. All tours leave from the Museum lobby and last about an hour. Reservations are not required.

### VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP

The NJVVMF Gift Shop has something for all ages, both men and women. Support our mission by purchasing something today. Please stop by on your next visit to the Museum or [shop online](#).

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**Please visit us at [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org) or follow us on Facebook at New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation to stay up-to-date on our activities.**

We look forward to having your support and presence at our programs, exhibitions and events in 2017.