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103 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



From the President's Pen...

- As we prepare to enter 2017, we congratulate Ridgefield Park (NJ) Fire Department on their 125th Anniversary. Our convention will be held there on June 2nd.
- We now have a host for every meeting in 2017. Thank you to all who extended this invitation to us. You can schedule to host a meeting in 2018 by calling 2VP Peter Devries at 201 741-9934.
- We will soon be reviewing our membership roster. Please remember to keep your dues up to date. Dues must be paid up, to be eligible for the various benefits of membership.
- Thank you to each and every Fire Department for your efforts during Fire Prevention Week last month. It required planning and hard work on everyone's part. Just remember though, Fire Prevention is a year round effort.

Lastly, and most importantly, let me wish each of you and your families a most wonderful, safe and joyous holiday season.....Bill

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Membership Meetings-Last Friday of the Month

**Unless otherwise noted*

2016

**December NO MEETING - MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HANUKKAH**

2017

January 27 Piermont FD, Empire Hose Co. 1
554 Piermont Ave., Piermont, NY
February 24 Old Tappan FD
321 Old Tappan Rd., Old Tappan, NJ
March 31 East Rutherford FD Station 13
50 Herman St., East Rutherford, NJ
April 28*** Edgewater Fire Co. 1
1408 River Rd., Edgewater, NJ
***Parking at a premium, please carpool. Do not park in school parking lot. Reserved for restaurant

May 21

New Date

MEMORIAL SERVICE (2 pm)

Bergen County Fire Academy
281-291 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah, NJ

June 2

CONVENTION

Thomas Jefferson Early Learning Center
95 Bergen Ave., Ridgefield Park, NJ
Refreshments - Across the street at:
Knights of Columbus, 106 Bergen Ave., Ridgefield Park, NJ

September 29

Cresskill FD

51 Madison Ave., Cresskill, NJ

October 27

Hillsdale FD

383 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale, NJ

November 17**

New Milford FD Co. 1

249 Center St., New Milford, NJ

**1 week early due to Thanksgiving

ALL MEETINGS START AT 8:00 PM

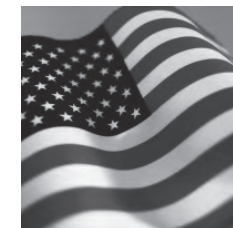
NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association

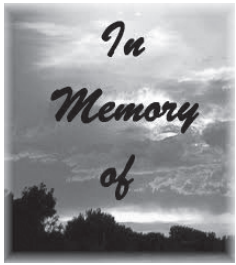
Please go to the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association website njnyvfa.org for many excellent Firefighting Training Articles and Videos. Just look under the heading **TRAINING-STAY SMART, STAY SAFE.**

Remember Our Troops

Visit us at
www.njnyvfa.org

Also on





The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen’s Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed members:

FF James Morrison, Hillcrest, NY FD
FF Caspert Sliker, Carlstadt, NJ FD
Ex-Chief John Novak, New Milford, NJ FD

Listings of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.

A HERO GONE

Friends,

Rockland said goodbye yesterday to another hero as we buried a 28-year-old Army sergeant from Wesley Hills. James Morrison graduated from Ramapo High School and had been a member of the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department. Then he volunteered to serve his country. Sgt. Morrison had been deployed to Afghanistan three times. He was decorated for bravery and returned home without a scratch.

But, as we know, not all wounds are physical.

As the father of two sons who served in the military, one still on active duty, and I cannot imagine the pain Richard and Sharon Morrison felt as they said goodbye to their only son.

As we prepare to mark Veteran’s Day next week, let’s pause to think about the dangers the men and women of the military face. Both on and off the battlefield.

Rockland County has paid dearly for the freedoms we all enjoy. Every death is a blow - a reminder of the sacrifices so many of our servicemen and women make for our nation.

The most recent war on terror has claimed eight Rockland lives. We have mourned Army Maj. Thomas Kennedy, who grew up in New City; Army Sgt. Edward H. Bolen, whose wife is from Blauvelt; Army Cpl. Manny Lopez of Haverstraw; Marine Cpl. Steven Vahaviolos of Airmont; Army Capt. Phillip Esposito of Pearl River; Army Spec. Justin Garcia of Valley Cottage; Navy seaman Gilbert Fontaine of Spring Valley; and Army Staff Sgt. Tatiana Khaghani Dees.

The dangers of the battlefield are well-known. Less well-known and less understood are the psychic scars that war leaves.

The family of Sgt. Morrison, who was on active duty in Fort Carson, Colorado, want his death to serve as an example of the dangers of post-traumatic stress syndrome.

“PTSD is real,” his father, Richard, said.

Yes, it is real.

The Veteran’s Administration estimates that as many as 20 percent of troops who served in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD.

Suicide is the deadliest consequence when the pain becomes too much to bear. The Veteran’s Administration estimated that in 2014, an average of 20 veterans died from suicide each day.

The same year, ***269 active-duty service members and 169 reserve and National Guard troops took their own lives***, according to the Defense Department. A staggering ... and sobering statistic.

Here in Rockland, we are fortunate to have the Rockland County Veterans Service Agency, which provides referrals for assistance. There is also a Veterans Affairs healthcare clinic in New City, which also offers psychological services.

A community group, Bridges, formerly the Rockland Independent Living Center, works with the Veteran Services Agency of Rockland County to implement the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support program.

That program provides support to veterans from veterans who understand the devastating effects of PTSD.

We’re doing what we can to reach out to members of our military to show them our appreciation and to provide them with the services and assistance they need.

But as we say goodbye to Sgt. James Morrison, we know, sadly, that sometimes it’s just not enough. ***Let us rededicate ourselves to providing our military members and veterans with the very best assistance possible.***

We owe the them nothing less.

Ed Day

County Executive

SERVICE RECOGNITION



Wood-Ridge Fire Fighter John Heflich was recognized for 50 years of service during the September 21, 2016 Wood-Ridge Mayor and Council Meeting. Heflich received three proclamations during the ceremony which included a proclamation from the Wood-Ridge Mayor and Council, a State Senate proclamation and the third proclamation from the NJ State Firemen’s Association, which was presented by his brother, George H. Heflich, Sr., President of the NJ State Firemen’s Association.

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HOW TO GET YOUR APPLICATION

All applications can be obtained from our web site, www.njnyvfa.org. Please download them for your use. Those applications are, NJ/NYVFA Unit Citation Award, Rudy Appeld Award, Ladies Auxiliary Leadership Award and the NJ/NY Junior Firefighter award.

The NJ/NY Joseph Costello Valor award and the NJ/NY Scholarship applications will be printed in the Signal once a year (December) and can also be downloaded from our web site www.njnyvfa.org.

NEW ITEMS - WANTED

Any Fire Department, Fire Company or Fire Organization that has any news or functions that they want advertised, please send them to me ASAP. If I get them in a timely manner, I can put them in the next edition of the Signal. If the date of the event is too close then I will put it on our web site www.njnyvfa.org immediately. I can get it on the web site within 1-2 days after receiving it. For the time being you can send all messages to my personal email, gs7320@msn.com until we set up our new email account with Google.

PS: We are also still looking for an Editor for the Signal. If you are interested, please contact me.

George E. Saigh, Signal Editor , NJ/NY Treasurer

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NJ/NY WEB SITE

We urge all members to take advantage of our web site, www.njnyvfa.org to find Fire Education seminars, both tuition free and tuition enabled. Also on the web site, you can find entertainment and food at local firehouses in Rockland County, NY and Bergen County, NJ. By attending the seminars you improve your fire knowledge and by going to the various functions being held at the firehouses, you are supporting them and helping yourself.