

County Plans Veterans Recognition Ceremony

By Art Charlton

BELVIDERE, NJ – Applications are being accepted for the 19th Warren County Veterans Recognition Ceremony to be held on Saturday, July 11 at the Warren County War Memorial in Belvidere, NJ.

The Warren County Board of County Commissioners will join the Warren County War Memorial Corporation to honor the county's eligible wartime veterans. The public is welcome to attend the 11 a.m. outdoor ceremony.

The deadline to apply is June 26, 2026 and applications are available for download on the Warren County Veterans Recognition Program website at www.warrencountynjveterans.com. Family members may apply on behalf of a veteran, living or deceased.

The program will feature the presentation of the Warren County Distinguished Military Service medal to veterans who served during wartime. County Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla and Commissioners James R. Kern III and Jason J. Sarnoski will present a medal, certificate and pin to veterans who have been approved and invited to attend.

The tentative program will include the following:

- A proclamation from the County Commissioners highlighting the 250th anniversary of our nation, the story of Dr. Joseph Warren (Warren County's namesake), and a brief history of our country.
- Presentation of the Distinguished Military Service award.
- Playing of the service songs for each branch of the military.
- Presentation of Quilts of Valor made by members of the Evening Star Quilting Guild to veterans John Depatto, Thomas Devlin, Arthur Ellis, Jr. and Carl Timberman.
- Musician Doug Grunn playing the Band of Brothers theme song and songs performed by the Colonial Musketeers senior ancient fife and drum corps.
- Singing of the National Anthem by Lily and Grace Duckworth

Seating will be provided for each Veteran receiving the Warren County Distinguished Military Service award and for one person accompanying them. All other attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs to enjoy the ceremony, as a limited number of extra chairs will be available.

The Warren County War Memorial is located next to the Warren County Courthouse at the corner of Second and Mansfield Streets in Belvidere, NJ.

Since the program's inception in 2003, a total of 2,265 men and women who have worn the uniform in the United States military during times of conflict have been awarded the medal.

Learn more about Warren County's Veterans Recognition Program at www.warrencountynjveterans.com/about-the-award. Questions about the program may be directed to the county's Veterans Services Officer, Jacqueline Petersen, MSgt, USAF (Retired) by calling toll-free: 877-222-3737.



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DeSales University Communications DeSales University Office of Veterans and Military Services Receives Distinguished Patriot's Award Center

By DeSales University

CENTER VALLEY, PA. — The DeSales University Office of Veterans and Military Services has been named the recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Patriot's Award by the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council (LVMAC). The award was presented during the annual Salute to the Troops Dinner held May 8, 2026, on the DeSales University campus. Wendy Badman, Director of Veterans and Military Services and VA School Certifying Official, accepted the honor on behalf of the office. The Distinguished Patriot's Award recognizes exemplary leadership, advocacy, and dedication in support of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

The recognition highlights DeSales University's steadfast, hands-on commitment to serving military-connected students. "I am deeply honored to accept this award on behalf of the Office of Veterans and Military Services and the entire DeSales University community," said Badman. "At DeSales, our Salesian values of humility, gentleness, patience, wisdom, and hospitality guide everything we do. These principles remind us that education is about more than earning a degree; it is about building a community where individuals feel welcomed, supported, and valued. For our veteran and military-connected students, that sense of belonging is especially meaningful." Badman emphasized that the recognition reflects a collective effort across the university and its partners.

"This award is a testament to the commitment of our faculty, staff, leadership, alumni, donors, and community partners who work tirelessly to ensure our students have the opportunities and support they deserve. Our veteran and military-connected students are our purpose. They are future leaders, and we are proud to support them in their continued journey of service and success." This year's Salute to the Troops Dinner honored the United States Air Force and also marked a significant leadership transition within LVMAC. Major General Gerald Still, USAF (Ret.), was recognized for 38 years of service to the organization, including 17 years as President, as he ceremonially passed the gavel to incoming President Lt. Col. Alexander Alex, MSC, USAF (Ret.). The Distinguished Patriot's Award adds to a growing list of accolades for the DeSales Office of Veterans and Military Services. The office has received recognition from organizations including the Pennsylvania National Guard, the U.S. Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Committee, where DeSales was named a top-performing commemorative partner nationally, as well as U.S. Army recruiting organizations in the Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg regions and the Fleet Reserve Association Black Diamond Branch #115. Through comprehensive programming, certification support, and personalized advocacy, the Office of Veterans and Military Services continues to ensure that veterans and military-connected students at DeSales University have the resources they need to thrive academically and professionally.

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