

# THE VETERAN'S BULLETIN

*The Official Newsletter of the Union County  
Office of Veteran Services*

**Welcome to The Veteran's Bulletin, the official newsletter of the Union County Office of Veteran Services. This publication is intended to keep our Veterans and their families informed about programs, services and events for Union County Veterans and active military residents.**

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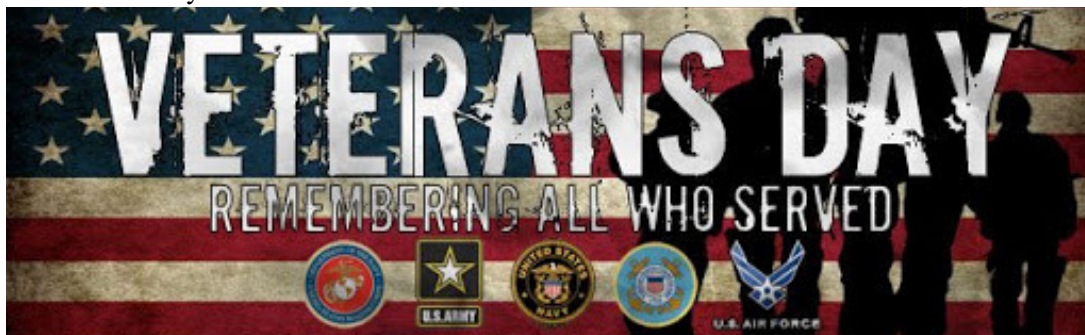


A Service of the Union County  
Board of County Commissioners

**UNION COUNTY**  
*We're Connected to You!*

## **Veterans Day Breakfast Held For Union County Veteran Employees**

Union County honored its Veteran employees at a Veterans Day breakfast at the Warinanco Park in Roselle on Friday, November 12th. The event was organized by the Union County Office of Veteran Services, and recognized nine Union County Veteran employees and local residents for their military service. Union County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella, Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Commissioner Lourdes M. Leon, Prosecutor William Daniel and Deputy County Manager Amy Wagner attended. Thank you to all our Veterans for your service to our nation.





## Union County Hosts First Swing Golf Clinic For Disabled Veterans and Residents

Air Force Veteran Obi Uka had been thinking about learning how to play golf for a long time, but he didn't want to try it by himself. Then he learned about the First Swing Golf Clinic held at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth. Along with six other Union County Veterans and residents, Obi attended the one day clinic on September 25th, and enjoyed taking his first golf swings. "It was a great experience for me," said Uka, a Kenilworth resident who served in the Air Force from 2011 to 2014. "I enjoyed the lesson, and the coach was great and very inspirational."

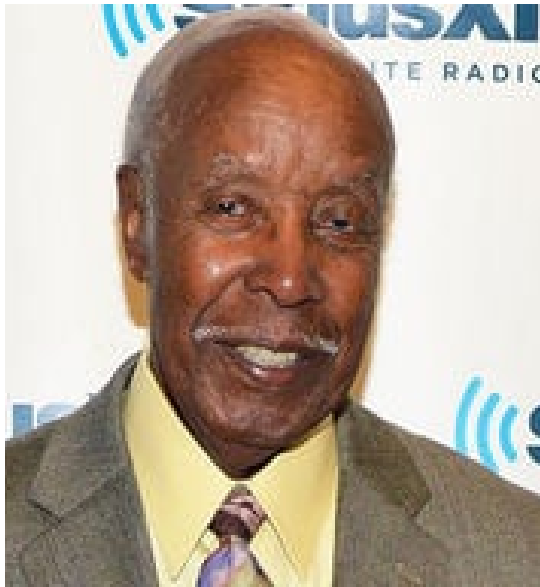
The First Swing Golf Clinic is designed to teach Veterans and residents with physical disabilities to improve their functional skills by introducing them to the game of golf. The event was organized by the Union County Office for Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, and the Office of Veteran Services. Mr. Louis Namm, the primary golf instructor for the Philadelphia VA Medical Center's Amputee Veterans, taught the session. A former member of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne unit, Mr. Namm lost both his legs in Vietnam. He later became a United States Golf Teachers Association certified golf instructor, and has worked with disabled veterans for the past 20 years, teaching them how to overcome their physical handicaps and play the sport.

Plainfield resident David Dick had been an avid golfer before he severely injured his back several years ago. With the assistance of Mr. Namm and his wife, Lois, David took his first golf swings in eight years. "I never thought I would get a chance to try playing golf again, said David. "Lou is a very patient coach and he gave me valuable tips to keep my balance. This gives me hope for the future."

The First Swing Golf Clinic is an annual event, and is one of several programs designed to assist Union County Veterans and residents with disabilities and special needs. For more information about future programs and events, please visit the Union County website at [www.ucnj.org/opdsn-reg](http://www.ucnj.org/opdsn-reg).



## Scotch Plains Park Middle School Renamed After Local Tuskegee Airman



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District honored one of its local heroes, the late Malcolm E. Nettingham, by renaming the Park Middle School after the World War II Veteran and Tuskegee Airman on Veterans Day, November 11th. The ceremony was attended by his children, Malcolm V. Nettingham and Deborah Nettingham, along with Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo, and dozens of residents, students and local officials. The school district announced the name change on September 29th, two days before what would have been Mr. Nettingham's 102nd birthday.

Mr. Nettingham, who passed away on September 14, 2020, was a longtime Scotch Plains resident, moving there with his family at the age of five. Born on October, 1, 1918 in New York, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 at the height of World War II. He became part of a five-man crew chosen to be the first integrated flight radio communications class at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. His crew successfully completed the course, and he went on to serve as a radio operator and gunner with the 617th Squadron, 477th Composite Group. After the war, Mr. Nettingham returned to Scotch Plains, married and raised his family, and worked for an industrial electronics company for 32 years before his retirement. He also was a master mason, and worked on the revitalization of the Jerseyland Park Community Center in Scotch Plains.

Malcolm Nettingham said his father hardly ever spoke about his military career until about 2007, when he was among 300 surviving Tuskegee Airmen who were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal for their military service and valor. "He just served his country, he served his church, he served his community. He just served, that's the way he was." Deborah Nettingham said her father lived by the six principles of "aim high, believe in yourself, use your brain, be ready to go, never quit and expect to win."

Several middle school students were recognized for writing essays about why they take pride in being a Nettingham student, and for designing a new red tail hawk school mascot and logo for the school. Mayor Losardo said the decision to rename the school was simply the right thing to do. "It is incumbent upon us to honor Americans who selflessly and courageously fought for our country while breaking barriers along the way," the mayor said. "No one deserves this honor more than him."

## New Jersey Veterans Governors Award Presented to Union County



Union County Veteran Service Coordinator Janna Williams accepts the New Jersey "We Value Our Veterans" Governors Award from Governor Philip Murphy and New Jersey Adjutant General Lisa Ho at the New Jersey Vietnam War Memorial in Holmdel on Veterans Day, November 11th.

Union County was notified in May that it would receive the award based on its application to the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The County was recognized for exceeding the state's goals and initiatives for providing exceptional services, resources and community support projects to assist and honor Union County Veterans and their families during the past year.

Among the goals the County met were providing parking spots for Veterans at County facilities and parks, honoring Veterans at annual POW/MIA Day and Gold Star Families Day events, hosting of meet and greet social events with Veterans, supporting annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, and offering education scholarships to students of Veteran and military families. The County was also recognized for providing discounts to Veterans and their families at local parks and establishments, and establishing a website for listing information about Veterans resources, support services, contacts and upcoming social events and ceremonies.

Started in 2019, the awards are given to communities, employers, colleges and universities in appreciation of extraordinary efforts made to promote a military friendly environment for Veterans, and recognize significant contributions to honor and assist the men and women who have worn the military uniform. In addition to the award, Union County is allowed to display the "We Value Our Veterans" award designation on the County's letterhead, website, flyers and banners for the coming year.

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**If you are a Union County Veteran, and wish to file a disability claim, please contact the Union County Office of Veteran Services at 908-527-4918/4719, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4:30pm. We will keep your information confidential and schedule an appointment to file your claim.**



## Free COVID-19 Vaccinations and Boosters Expanded for All County Residents

The Union County Board of County Commissioners encourages all Union County residents, including Veterans and their families, to ensure they are fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus before the holiday season goes into full swing. The Union County COVID-19 vaccination program covers free vaccines and booster shots, including the pediatric vaccine for children ages 5-11. To make an appointment at any of Union County's free COVID-19 vaccination clinics, visit [ucnj.org/covid19/vax](https://ucnj.org/covid19/vax). Those under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult. The Jersey Department of Health aims to fully vaccinate 85 percent of the population by year's end.

For residents ages 12 and older, appointments for the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines and booster shots are available at the Union County clinic located in Downs Hall at the Kean University campus, 1000 Morris Avenue in Union Township. It is open every Wednesday and Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., except for federal holidays. For those ages five and older, appointments for the Pfizer vaccine are available at the Union County vaccination clinic located at the Warinanco Sports Center at 1 Park Drive in Warinanco Park, in Roselle. The clinic is open Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Free COVID-19 vaccinations and tests are also available at all Union County COVID-19 mobile and walk-up clinics. Mobile clinic sites and dates are on the Union County website at [ucnj.org/covid19](https://ucnj.org/covid19).

People 18 and older who received a single dose of the J&J vaccine should receive a booster at least two months after receiving the primary dose. Eligible county residents need to wait four weeks after their second shot of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine in order to receive their third shot. Appointments can be made online on the Union County website at [ucnj.org/vax](https://ucnj.org/vax). Eligible residents can also visit any vaccination site in the county on a walk-in basis at mobile vaccination clinics with proof of their first two shots.

Union County residents who are home bound or have difficulty leaving their home can use a new toll-free number to make an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at home, free of charge. The number to call is **1-833-256-2478**, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. For additional assistance, contact the Union County COVID-19 Call Center at **908-613-7829** during weekday business hours. For more information, please visit the Union County website at [ucnj.org/covid19/vaccinations-page](https://ucnj.org/covid19/vaccinations-page).

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## Deadline for Ida Storm Relief Assistance Extended For County Residents

The Union County Board of County Commissioners advises residents, including Veterans and their families, who were impacted by Tropical Storm Ida that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extended the deadline to apply for assistance. **The new deadline is Wednesday, January 5, 2022.** In addition, the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center for Union County will remain open until further notice to provide residents with in-person assistance. The Center is located in the O'Donnell Dempsey Senior Community Center, at 618 Salem Avenue in Elizabeth. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Federal disaster assistance for individuals and families can include money for rent, essential home repairs, personal property losses, and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance. To apply for disaster assistance with FEMA online, visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) to use the FEMA app, or call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (TTY 800-462-7585). The toll-free telephone lines are currently operating from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily. Relay users can provide FEMA with the number for their service, and multilingual operators are available.



## Union County Veteran Owned Businesses

The Union County Office of Veteran Services has compiled a list of some successful Veteran Owned Businesses in Union County. Veterans who are interested in listing their business with our office can contact Kenneth Glick at [Kenneth.Glick@ucnj.org](mailto:Kenneth.Glick@ucnj.org), or call 908-527-4719. Please provide the full name of your company, address, phone number, email, website, and a brief description of your products and services.

**Airborne Graphics, LLC.** 850 Springfield Road Union, NJ 07083 Phone: (908) 673-1008  
John Roesch, Jr., Owner, U.S. Army Veteran, served with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.  
Airborne Graphics, LLC is a Veteran owned full service printing and mailing business, providing creative marketing solutions using the latest printing, design and production techniques for its customers.  
Email: [Info@airbornegraphicsllc.com](mailto:Info@airbornegraphicsllc.com). Website: <https://airbornegraphicsllc.com/>.

**ECM Services, LLC.** 349 Summit Road Union, NJ 07083 Phone: (973) 731-1690 or (908) 380-2204  
Steven Larrosa, President, U.S. Navy Veteran, licensed New Jersey electrical contractor.  
ECM Services is a Veteran owned electrical/electronic and instrumentation company. ECM performs commercial, industrial and residential electrical design work and wiring, electrical installation services, instrumentation and control maintenance and emergency service calls and repairs.  
Email and Website: <http://www.ecmservicesllc.com/>.

**Emergency Services Supply, LLC.** 90 Lyons Place Springfield, NJ 07081 Phone: (973) 564-5140  
Mark Given, Owner, retired U.S. Army Veteran. Emergency Services Supply is a Veteran owned company which provides emergency services, supplies and equipment to Police, Fire, Medical, Military, Local and Federal Government and Homeland Security agencies as well as the general public. Website not available.

**First Call Services, Inc.** 829 Wyoming Avenue Elizabeth, NJ 07208 Phone: (908) 620-1240 or (908) 353-4953  
Fred Bonda, Owner, U.S. Air Force Veteran. First Call Services Inc. is a Veteran owned office machine company, specializing in repairs, service, sales, rentals and leases of all make and models of office machines, including copiers, faxes, scanners, typewriters, printers, time clocks, shredders and micrographics.  
Email: [firstcallsvcs@live.com](mailto:firstcallsvcs@live.com). Website: <https://www.firstcallservicesinc.com/>.

**T3, LLC.** 313 West 9th Street Plainfield, NJ 07060 Phone: (908) 757-4971 or (908) 307-4508  
Thomas Turner III, CEO, U.S. Army Veteran. T3 LLC. is a Veteran owned computer consulting business which specializes in computer installation and maintenance, software programming, network installation and troubleshooting, web development, computer project management and computer training classes.  
The company is listed at [https://www.usaopps.com/government\\_contractors/contractor-5760451-T-III.htm](https://www.usaopps.com/government_contractors/contractor-5760451-T-III.htm)

***\*Inclusion of these businesses does not indicate an endorsement by the Board of Union County Commissioners***

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## Union County Rental Assistance Program

The Union County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) portal is temporarily closed. However, landlords and tenants, including Veterans and their families, can sign up on the portal waiting list by going to the Union County website at <https://ucnj.org/rental-assistance/>. Applicants will receive an e-mail or text notification when the portal opens. Please review the website for eligibility and documentation requirements so when the portal reopens, landlords and tenants can quickly go through the ERAP application process. ERAP will provide significant economic relief to help low and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance and utility arrears assistance.

## Union County Veteran Discounts

The following is a partial list of commercial and retail discounts offered by local businesses in Union County to all Veterans. For a complete list of discounts, and for those businesses who wish to sign up to offer a discount, please visit the Union County website at <https://ucnj.org/county-clerk/veteran-discounts/>.

### Contracting

Chapman Brothers Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning  
5% off service or installation  
36 North Avenue East, Cranford, NJ 07016  
908-276-1320

Colorblind Productions  
\$100 off DJ Service  
1009 Voorhees St., Hillside, NJ 07205  
908-355-9411

Innovative Window Treatments  
\$50 gift certificate  
310 North 12th Ave., Kenilworth, NJ 07033  
609-865-2800

### Finance/Legal

Century 21 Alliance Realty – Lydia Watson, NJ Licensed Sales Associate  
Free Property Evaluation for Home Sales  
867 North Stiles St., Linden, NJ 07036  
908-587-5222

Emerald Financial  
Free consultation  
1140 Route 22 E., Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
908-252-2352

Unity Bank  
Military Appreciation Acct.  
628 N. Wood Ave., Linden, NJ 07036  
908-925-8353

### Restaurants/Food

Al's Prime Meats & Deli  
15% Off  
345 North Ave., Garwood, NJ 07027  
908-789-2770

Linden House Diner  
10% off  
200 W. St. George Ave., Linden, NJ 07036  
908-486-3930

Westfield Diner  
10% Off  
304 North Ave. E., Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-233-5200

# The Union County Office of Veteran Services

The Union County Office of Veteran Services is a vital link between men and women who served their country and the services available from Federal, State, County and Municipal levels of government as well as the private sector. Veteran Services provides advocacy, information and referrals for veterans and their families on a wide variety of financial, health and quality-of-life issues related to VA benefits and services.



Service is available on our toll-free hotline 866-640-7115, **and by appointment** only at our office in the Union County Administration Complex in Elizabeth. For more information, please contact our county Veteran Service Coordinator, Janna Williams, at 908-527-4918 or go to our website at <https://ucnj.org/uc-hero>.

## Here are some of the many services offered by the Office of Veterans services for FREE to Union County Veterans and their family members!

- Provides eligibility criteria for all veteran benefits and entitlements
- Assists in securing copies of lost military documents, such as the DD-214 (military separation document)
- Guides applications to the VA for service-connected compensation and pension claims
- Helps veteran's widow/widower and children apply for benefits
- Helps with appeals for denied benefit applications
- Provides death and burial benefit information
- Coordinates annual placement of flags on veteran graves in Union County on Memorial Day weekend
- Provides contact & referral information for housing, mental health, education, job training/placement, financial and medical/nursing home services
- Facilitates transportation to VA Healthcare System at Lyons and East Orange through the Union County Paratransit system

## Union County Office of Veteran Services Directory



For questions or information regarding veterans benefits and services, please contact our Veteran Services staff:

- **Janna Williams – Accredited Veteran Service Coordinator**  
Phone: 908-527-4918 Email: [jwilliams@ucnj.org](mailto:jwilliams@ucnj.org)
- **Kenneth Glick – Accredited Veteran Service Officer**  
Phone: 908-527-4719 Email: [Kenneth.Glick@ucnj.org](mailto:Kenneth.Glick@ucnj.org)

OFFICE OF VETERAN SERVICES:  
UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING  
10 ELIZABETHTOWN PLAZA  
ELIZABETH NJ 07203

HOURS OF OPERATION:  
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8:00AM—4:30PM  
TELEPHONE: 908-527-4918/4719  
WEBSITE:  
[WWW.UCNJ.ORG/UCHERO](http://WWW.UCNJ.ORG/UCHERO)

A Service of the Union County Board of County Commissioners



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