



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Overflow Patriotic Crowd Salutes Hunterdon County Veterans At Ceremony

An overflow crowd of flag waving Veterans and their family members united in honoring Hunterdon County's 2018 Veterans Recognition Medal Class, who were saluted for their service to the nation by Hunterdon County officials, at the Opening Ceremonies of the County's 4H and Agricultural Fair, in Ringoes, on August 22nd.

More than forty Hunterdon County Veterans, spanning service from World War II to the current Global War on Terror, were presented medals and certificates honoring their service. They joined the ranks of over 1500 other County Veterans who are previous recipients of the award, which was created by Hunterdon County Veteran John N. Hatzikalfas in 2002.

The ceremony's highlight was a video presentation from World War II Veteran William P. Schmal, of Clinton, who, while unable to attend the event, accepted his medal and wished his fellow Veterans well via a video feed.

A large contingent of previous medal recipients, their families, and spouses of former recipients who have passed away, attended the ceremony to show their support for the current group of medal recipients.

Special guest speaker Congressman Leonard Lance noted, "Hunterdon County has always done more than its share in responding to the nation's call and done so proudly. President Abraham Lincoln called our nation 'the last best hope of mankind,' and it remains so today due to your service, and that of those who never returned home, and those who are serving now."

Freeholder Board Director Matt Holt told the assemblage, "On behalf of my fellow Freeholders, our constitutional officers and our legislators, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the medal recipients, and to all the Veterans in attendance. It is our honor to be amongst you today. Thank you for your service."

Congressman Lance and Freeholder Holt were joined in presenting the Recognition Medals to Veterans by Senators Kip Bateman and Michael Doherty, Assemblyman Erik Peterson, County Clerk Mary Melfi, Sheriff Fred Brown, Surrogate Susan Hoffman, Prosecutor Anthony Kearns III, and Freeholders Suzanne Lagay, John King, John Lanza and Shaun Van Doren.

The program was led by Master of Ceremonies Dan 'Dr. D.' Torrone and started with presentation of colors from the Travis Manion Sea Cadets. Featured entertainment by the fabulous Belle Tones, an all American female trio, who feted the Veterans with their Andrews Sisters style rendition of Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and the theme hymns for each Branch of the service.

Hunterdon County Veterans who have not previously received the Recognition Medal, can apply for the award for 2019 by email veterans@co.hunterdon.nj.us or by calling 908-788-1104.

