



## Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon  
71 Main Street, Building #1  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 3, 2022

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Rich Booth, Veterans Services Officer

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## Hunterdon County Veterans Services Officer Hosts Veteran Headstone Cleaning Event

### County Historical Society And Volunteers Clean Headstones Dating Back To The Civil War

The Hunterdon County Veterans Services Officer (VSO), Richard Booth, hosted a Veteran Headstone Cleaning event on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Flemington Presbyterian Church Cemetery on Main Street in Flemington, with more than twenty volunteers and members of the county's Historical Society joining, to clean headstones of Veterans dating back to the Civil War.

Inspired by Mr. Trae Zipperer's non-profit organization, 'By Memorial Day,' the County's Commissioner Board hosted a Veteran Headstone Cleaning event in October last year with VSO Booth and invited Mr. Zipperer to Hunterdon County for a demonstration and training session.

Commissioner Board Deputy Director and Veterans liaison Zachary T. Rich said at the event last year, "Listening to Trae tell a story about the Veteran who was buried under the headstone he cleaned, and recognizing that there is a person, with a life story, connected to that headstone, changes the perspective. From that moment, it becomes an obligation as an American to take better care of these headstones."

Mr. Zipperer, a Navy Veteran, has been traveling all over the country to share his mission, which is to promote the perpetual care of all Veteran's headstones.

VSO Rich Booth, also a Navy Veteran, said, "Last year when Mr. Zipperer traveled to New Jersey from Florida, it was evident that he was committed to honoring our nation's Veterans through the maintenance of their headstones. As a Veteran, it is my obligation to promote this program throughout the county and continue honoring our heroes in their final resting place."



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Civil War headstones that were cleaned at the Flemington Presbyterian Cemetery included Lambert Boeman, a Union Civil War soldier and Captain of Company A-15<sup>th</sup> New Jersey Infantry, who was killed at Cedar Creek, Virginia on October 19, 1864, and Alexander Bonnell, a Union Civil War soldier who served as Captain in Company D-31<sup>st</sup> New Jersey and at the rank of Major on the staff of Brigadier General Theodore Runyon who ran the First New Jersey Brigade, and died August 13, 1872.

If you would like to sign-up for a Cleaning Event in May or June, please contact [rcass@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:rcass@co.hunterdon.nj.us) to become a volunteer.

Cleaning supplies and water bottles are provided for all participants at each event.