



Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Commissioners Join Marine Corps League To Hold Solemn Flag Retirement Ceremony

Ceremony Of Final Tribute Held In Annandale On Flag Day

The Ceremony of Final Tribute for the American Flag is a reverent acknowledgement of retirement for flags that need to be replaced and the Marine Corps League, Detachment 927 - Hunterdon County Bulldog organization, conducts these respectful ceremonies at the Hunterdon County Emergency Services Training Center in Annandale annually on Flag Day in June and the Monday before Thanksgiving in November, Commissioner Board Deputy Director Zachary T. Rich said.

Deputy Director Rich, the Board's Co-Veteran's liaison, said, "It is incredibly moving to witness the solemn Ceremony of Final Tribute, with the Color Guard's precision, and see the proper retirement of this nation's symbol of freedom and justice, something the Hunterdon County Bulldogs deliver perfectly."

In 1937, the American Legion passed a resolution requiring a flag retirement ceremony and since then, it has been an important ritual for veterans, scouts, and other patriotic organizations.

Five years ago, the Hunterdon County Bulldogs refurbished two United States Postal Service mailboxes that were decommissioned and had them painted and repurposed as drop-off boxes to collect the flags for the Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Rich continued, "The county recently freshened up these drop-off boxes and repainted them as our way of saying 'thank you' to the Bulldogs for collecting the flags and hosting the Final Tribute Ceremony for the past four years."

The U.S. Flag Code states that when a flag is damaged, it can no longer serve as a symbol of the country and should be retired in a dignified way.

"The ceremony is never announced by the Hunterdon County Bulldogs, they do not want to draw attention to the Final Tribute, and it is their humility and sense of honor which sets their ceremony apart," Rich said.



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“I want to thank the Bulldogs for including me in the Ceremony this past Flag Day and for the Clinton Township Fire Company and the Annandale Hose Company for standing by in case their services were needed during the Flag Retirement Ceremony.,” Rich added.

Flag drop-off boxes are located at 314 Rt. 12, Headquarters Library, Raritan, and 65 Halstead Street, in Clinton, at the North County Branch Library.