



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 23, 2019

Contact: Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder Director

Suzanne.lagay@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon County Veterans Saluted At Ceremony Opening 4-H Fair



A standing room only crowd of enthusiastic Veterans and their families packed into the Hunterdon County 4H Fair's Main Stage tent to salute the Class of 2019 Veterans' Recognition Medal recipients, at the Fair's opening ceremonies, at the Roger K. Everitt Fairgrounds in Ringoes, on August 21st.

Included among the fifty Hunterdon County Veterans who were honored was U.S. Navy Veteran Jon Hanson of Annandale, a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The Veterans, spanning service from World War II to the current War on Terror, were presented Medals and certificates honoring their service. They joined the ranks of almost 4000 other County Veterans who are previous recipients of the award, which was created by Hunterdon County Veteran John N. Hatzikalfas in 2002.

Four County Veterans; Michael Aneskewich, Sr., Richard Booth, Alva Cronce, Jr., and James Toscani were honored posthumously, with family members accepting their medals.

Hunterdon County Freeholder Board Director Suzanne Lagay told the flag waving, patriotic audience, "On behalf of all of my colleagues on the Freeholder Board, our Constitutional Officers, and our State Legislators,



Board of Chosen Freeholders

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

MEDIA RELEASE

we are honored to join you today and we thank you, our Veterans, for your service to and sacrifice for our nation.”

Lagay who is not seeking re-election this year, stated, “This is my sixth and final year as a member of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders. And for all those six years, to participate in this Veterans ceremony each year has been the highlight.”

Freeholder Lagay pointed out that among the elected officials presenting medals to the Veterans were Senator Mike Doherty, a U.S. Army Veteran, and Hunterdon County Sheriff Fred Brown, a U.S. Navy Veteran.

In addition, the other elected officials given the honor to present the Recognition Medals included; Senator Kip Bateman, Assembly members Erik Peterson, John DiMaio, and Roy Freiman, County Surrogate Susan Hoffman, Acting Prosecutor Michael Williams, and Hunterdon County Freeholders John E. Lanza, Matt Holt, Shaun Van Doren, and Susan Soloway.

Prior to the medal award ceremony, Hunterdon County Sea Scout Jack Dabb’s verbatim presentation of the late President Ronald Reagan’s ‘Freedom Is Not Free – A Soldier’s Pledge’ speech, from the May 31, 1982, Memorial Day Ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, brought the crowd to its feet.

The attendees were entertained by the Rogers Dance Academy of Flemington who performed dance routines in concert with musical renditions of each of the military services’ anthems.

Longtime 4-H Fair Master of Ceremonies Dan Torrone stated, “I am honored each year to be involved in the Veterans ceremony. We are so proud of our Hunterdon County Veterans. I can’t think of a better way to kick off the 4-H Fair.”