



Board of County Commissioners

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

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 22, 2023

Contact: Susan Soloway

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County Commissioners Attend Marine Corps League Official Flag Retirement Ceremony

The Ceremony of Final Tribute for the American Flag is a reverent acknowledgement of retirement for flags that need to be replaced. The Marine Corps League, Detachment 927 - Hunterdon County Bulldog organization, conducts these respectful ceremonies at various locations throughout the county. Deputy Director Jeff Kuhl and Commissioner Susan Soloway attended the most recent ceremony, held at the Emergency Services Training Center, in Annandale, on Monday June 19th.

The ceremony is conducted annually, usually on Flag Day in June and the Monday before Thanksgiving in November, weather permitting.

Commissioner Susan Soloway, the Board's Co-Veteran's liaison, said, "It is incredibly moving to witness the solemn Ceremony of Final Tribute, and to understand that retiring a flag, the symbol of freedom and justice, deserves such a respectful retirement, 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.

Deputy Director Jeff Kuhl shared, "The Bulldogs have been collecting flags and hosting the Final Tribute Ceremony for the past six 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. This ceremony is the perfect example of Americans honoring the liberty and freedom our flag represents."

Ms. Soloway concluded, "I want to thank the Bulldogs for including me and Deputy Director Kuhl in this recent Flag Retirement Ceremony. The ceremony is never announced by the Hunterdon County Bulldogs, they do not want to draw attention for the Final Tribute, and it is this humble sense of honor which sets their ceremony apart."



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Finally, a special thank you to the Town of Clinton Fire Department for attending and standing by in case their services were needed for safety and assistance during the ceremony.”

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

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.



Picture (l-r):

Charles Wian (Sr. Vice Commandant -Marine Corps League.); Jim Scott (Frenchtown, Milford, VFW Post Quartermaster); Pete Schaible (Commander Frenchtown, Milford, VFW); Deputy Director Jeff Kuhl; Commissioner Susan Soloway.