



“Service Above Self”

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MEDIA CONTACT INFO:

Jodi DiPane (908) 576-4333

Vintage Aircraft and Military “Fly-By” to Highlight Rotary’s Armed Services Appreciation Day May 20

Public Invited to Enjoy the Day's Attractions
And Show Their Support for Active Military and Veterans

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ – The skies over Hillsborough’s Central Jersey Regional Airport (47N) will be filled with a rare showing of military and vintage fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters on Saturday, May 20, as part of a day-long event to help the Rotary Clubs from District 7510 raise funds for various charities and foundations dedicated to assisting active US military and veterans. The event will be held from 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM and admission is free.

Jodi DiPane-Saleem, a member of the Branchburg Rotary Club who heads the Rotary committee organizing the event states: “We have the blessings from the FAA and the Pentagon to stage a fly-by of military aircraft over the field throughout the event. We also have 3 large military helicopters scheduled to set down on the field as part of our static display, which children and adults can explore and have a closer look at.” The event will also host various privately owned military aircraft with some owners offering a chance to win a ride in their plane.

Veterans and active military will be celebrated by the public while enjoying a day filled with fun events and helpful information. The general public – young and old – is invited to participate. The event will include food provided by Dunellen/Greenbrook Rotary. There will also be live music from DJ Joe Leone. Central Jersey Military Motor Pool will have a number of army jeeps and trucks available for public viewing and a number of static airplanes will be on display by

private owners, some of which will be offering a drawing for a ride in their plane. Attendees will always be able to look up to see what's crossing over as McGuire Air Force Base has put us on the calendar to have their aircraft fly over and the state's Mooney club has committed to perform formation flying over the airfield.

The field will be covered with attractions that are not only beneficial for our military in terms of gathering information to assist them, but we'll also have some items of interests for the general public. There will be classic and antique cars and motorcycles available for viewing. We'll have some health care providers, and representatives from Combat Paper who take old military uniforms, convert them to paper and produce books, art and all kinds of paper objects for vets to connect to..."

"This year the event is going to step up their game and provide more entertainment for the kids attending." States Ms. DiPane, "We've dedicated an area for the kids to draw and paint on the asphalt to thank a vet. DuPont will be donating their new spray chalk paint and we have a wide variety of colored chalk to help build the artwork for the kids. We'll have face painting, some children's games and a bouncy house, as well as some fire engines and the smoke simulator from the local fire department. We'll also have a variety of novelty gifts for the kids to receive for their participation with the games we've arranged for them."

A key fundraiser and favorite from last year's event – plane rides by the flight school, TriState Aviation – returns this year. "This is always a big attraction for the people that attend this event. For many of them, it brings back memories of the old days at this airport when rides were provided for a penny a pound. Some people have never been in a small plane before and the ride is so different than a commercial jet that they're amazed by the view that kind of flying offers."

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund New Jersey organizations that work to benefit former and active members of the US military. Donations of food, clothing and toiletries for the military and veterans will be collected at the event. Operation ChillOut, Welcome Home Vets NJ and the Veterans Administration (VA) will be on hand to assist Veterans. Veterans who need assistance with obtaining benefits or help from the VA are encouraged to come to speak with these representatives to learn about the valuable resources they provide. Massage Envy will provide therapist to offer free massages to attending veterans as part of their contribution to thanking a vet for their service.

Operation ChillOut and Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey will host displays at the event where donated items can be dropped off. Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey will have representatives on hand to assist vets with any personal and/or financial difficulties they are having.

Entrance to the airport is located at 1034 Millstone River Road. To access parking patrons must enter the airport through the Pizza n Pasta restaurant parking lot and follow the access road that bears to the left at the top of the lot. Civil Air Patrol will be directing parking once participants are on the field. In the event of rain or in climate weather, the event will be canceled.

Veterans Appreciation Day is sponsored by **Rotary Clubs from District 7510**, which comprises 39 Rotary Clubs with a total of over 1,000 members from Central New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The Rotary Club of Branchburg is chairing the event and the following clubs are participating: Bridgewater - Bound Brook, Dunellen-Greenbrook, Montgomery - Rocky Hill, Piscataway, Plainsboro - North and South Brunswick, Somerville and Bridgewater.

About Rotary

[Rotary](#) brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

The Branchburg Rotary Club currently has over 20 active members from Branchburg and surrounding communities. Members include business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. The Branchburg Rotary serves Branchburg and surrounding community. All funds raised at Rotary events throughout the year are donated back to community projects. The Branchburg Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at 7:30 am at Stoney Brook Grille at 1285 New Jersey Route 28 in Branchburg.

Beneficiaries of Benefit

Operation ChillOut, based in Long Valley, is a grassroots interfaith coalition founded in the year 2000 by concerned volunteers to help a group of homeless Viet Nam veterans living in the open under a railroad trestle in northern NJ. They provide emergency supplies and survival gear to the most vulnerable members of our communities wherever they encounter them. Operation ChillOut is seeking new and unused clothing that will be donated to homeless veterans. Requested items include knit cap and gloves, wool/nylon blend socks, insulated underwear and hooded, zipper sweatshirts in sizes large and extra-large.

Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey is a non-profit organization specializing in Veteran advocacy and financial assistance. Many vets aren't aware of all the benefits available to them and if they are, they don't know how to navigate through the system to obtain them, which can be grueling. Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey provides a wealth of information and support to vets looking for services and/or having difficulty obtaining benefits from the Veteran's Administration. Their agency is comprised of professional volunteers willing to donate time and resources to support New Jersey Vets. Are you having difficulty

paying utility bills? Finding employment? Obtaining benefits or require legal assistance? If so, Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey can help you navigate in the right direction to address your needs.

For further information about participating in or attending Military and Veterans Appreciation Day please call Jodi DiPane-Saleem at 908-576-4333 or jd@tristateaviation.com