



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024

State of New Jersey honors Wildwood Crest with “We Value Our Veterans” Community Award

The Borough of Wildwood Crest has been named a recipient of the New Jersey’s Governor “We Value Our Veterans” Community Award by Governor Philip D. Murphy. Wildwood Crest was presented the award at a Veterans Day ceremony at the Vietnam War Memorial in Holmdel on Monday.

The New Jersey’s Governor “We Value Our Veterans” Community Award honors communities, employers and educational institutions that have shown outstanding commitment to recognizing and supporting military veterans and active service members.

Wildwood Crest resident Mike Marino, a 20-year Air Force Special Operations-Combat Controller veteran who has volunteered to lead the borough’s efforts in the “We Value Our Veterans” campaign, was on hand to receive the award on behalf of Wildwood Crest. He was presented the award by Acting Governor Tahesa L. Way (Governor Murphy attended a different Veterans Day ceremony) and Colonel Yovonne L. Mays, Adjutant General of New Jersey.

“Your Municipality’s commitment to recognizing and supporting our Veterans is commendable, and we are grateful for the numerous initiatives Wildwood Crest has undertaken,” Marco A. Laguna, U.S. Army veterans and Legislative Liaison of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs wrote in an email to Wildwood Crest. “This award is not only a testament to your dedication, but also serves as a prominent symbol of your support for New Jersey's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.”

Many borough departments, including its elected officials, public works, public safety, recreation, the clerk’s office and the business administrator,

worked in concert with Marino on the borough's "We Value Our Veterans" campaign.

Over the past two years, the borough has undertaken many initiatives to help better serve its residents and visitors who are military veterans, including the following:

- Created parking spaces for Purple Heart recipients and disabled veterans at the Crest Pier Recreation Center and the Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool;
- Have provided discounted fees for veterans at the Joseph Von Savage Memorial Pool;
- Have listed various resources for veterans on a new Military Veterans Information page on the borough's website;
- Have hosted an annual 9/11 Memorial Service to honor victims of the terrorist attacks as well as honor all past and present military members and first responders;
- Honored veterans at a Little League baseball game with free hot dogs, rally towels and having veterans throw the ceremonial first pitch;
- Honored World War II veteran Russell Stetser by declaring his 100th birthday as Russell Stetser Day in the Borough of Wildwood Crest

"The Borough of Wildwood Crest has undertaken many initiatives to help honor its military veterans on a daily basis," said Wildwood Crest Mayor Don Cabrera. "We'd like to thank Mike Marino for volunteering his time and doing a wonderful job, along with the many borough departments, in helping us earn this 'We Value Our Veterans' Community Award. It is an award the borough is extremely proud to receive. Wildwood Crest will continue to strive to honor its military veterans and their legacies."

For more information, contact the Borough of Wildwood Crest at (609) 522-5176.