



Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II
Memorial Fund

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For Immediate Release

Gala to Support Severely Wounded Soldiers and their Families

Five Volunteers from the Jersey Shore to be Honored at

“A Toast to Dennis”

Adelphia, New Jersey, July 18, 2019 – The 11th Annual “A Toast to Dennis – A Night of Remembrance” Gala will be held at Eagle Oaks Country Club in Farmingdale, on Friday, September 13, 2019, to support veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other life altering injuries, and their families. Funds raised will also support deployed servicemen and servicewomen throughout

The event is organized by the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund, an organization created and founded in 2006 to honor local hero Lt. Zilinski who was killed in action in Iraq by a roadside bomb. Twenty-three-year-old Lt. Zilinski was a Middletown resident, a Christian Brothers Academy alumnus, a distinguished West Point graduate, a member of the 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division. Since his untimely death, family and friends have united with the Memorial Fund to provide support to improve the morale and welfare of members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

“There is no better way to honor my son’s memory and exemplary life than to support severely injured veterans and their families. ‘A Toast to Dennis’ Gala helps us raise the funds needed to help those who protect and serve our country,” said Marion Zilinski, Co-Founder and Board Member of the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund.

This year, five volunteers from the Jersey Shore will be honored at the Gala:

- **Dean and MaryAnn Janeway, Mantoloking, NJ** – Dean and MaryAnn became involved in the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund four years ago and have introduced the organization to many new people who actively participate. Dean spent his career at Wakefern Food Corp., retiring after 45 years of service. He has received several awards for community service, including honors from Special Olympics of New Jersey, The New Jersey Food Council, The Food Marketing Institute, and The National Grocers Association. Dean is currently on the Board of Directors of the Kessler Foundation and serves as Chairman of the New Jersey Health Foundation.

Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund, a 501(c)(3) a non-profit organization
Tax ID No. 030-601077
P.O. Box 124
Adelphia, NJ 07710
732-431-1713

- **Retired Navy Lt. William and Deborah Rustico, Middletown, NJ** – Bill served as Fire Control Officer and Damage Control Assistant in the Navy onboard USS OLDENDORF and was deployed to the Western Pacific and the Persian Gulf. He also served as an Officer Recruiter. His decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Recruiting Ribbon, and Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon. After leaving the Navy, Bill attended business school at Northwestern University and then worked on Wall Street in various sales and management functions.

Debbie is a lifelong soccer player and was a four-year starter on the women's team at Princeton University. She attended business school at Kellogg, then went to work on Wall Street in various finance roles. She's been the Chief Operating Officer of MidOcean Partners, a global hedge fund and private equity firm, for 21 years.

Bill and Debbie graciously opened their home to the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund in 2013 to host the Gala. Bill currently serves our organization as a Board Member.

- **Madison Huber, Holmdel, NJ** – Madison, a freshman at Clemson University, has been involved with the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund since her freshman year at Trinity Hall High School. She participated with the annual pasta dinner sponsored by students at Christian Brothers Academy to raise funds to send care packages to deployed troops. During her sophomore year at Trinity Hall, Madison organized the first Annual Zilinski Bootcamp to raise funds to provide service dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI. She raised \$69,000 over three years. Madison's annual event continues to live on with another Trinity Hall student at the helm.

"We are grateful for the commitment and dedication of Dean, MaryAnn, Bill, Deborah, and Madison to the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund. Through their active involvement in our organization, many servicemen and servicewomen have been provided much needed services," added Marion Zilinski.

"A Toast to Dennis" Gala will be an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, entertainment, and live and silent auctions. Entertainment will be provided by the "Docs of Rock". This is the second year they are donating their services. The centerpieces are also donated by "Especially for You Florist" in Freehold for the fifth year in a row.

Individual tickets are \$150 each. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, including sponsorship of a serviceman or servicewoman to attend. For more information about sponsorships or placing an ad journal, please contact Annie O'Pray-Stattel, Board Member and Gala Committee Chairperson, at astattel@gmail.com.

More About the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund

One of the main accomplishments of the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund is sponsoring service dogs for wounded soldiers suffering from PTSD and TBI. To date, the Memorial Fund has sponsored more than 87 dogs at a cost of \$15,000 per service dog.

Additionally, the Memorial Fund provides scholarships to students at Lt. Zilinski's alma mater, Christian Brothers Academy, and its sister school, Trinity Hall High School. By providing these scholarships, the Memorial Fund invests in the future of high school students who embody the leadership qualities and community spirit of Lt. Zilinski.

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To help us raise awareness about all the good we do, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.
Donations may be sent to: Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 124, Adelphia, NJ 07710.

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