

Dezil's Dispatch

Issue 008

Newsletter

Winter 2022

Dezil's Dispatch is sponsored by the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund.

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter!

In each edition of Dezil's Dispatch, we will share exciting news of our happenings and accomplishments. Family and friends will give us "A Dose of Dennis" so you will learn more about our hero and son.

A Dose of Dennis

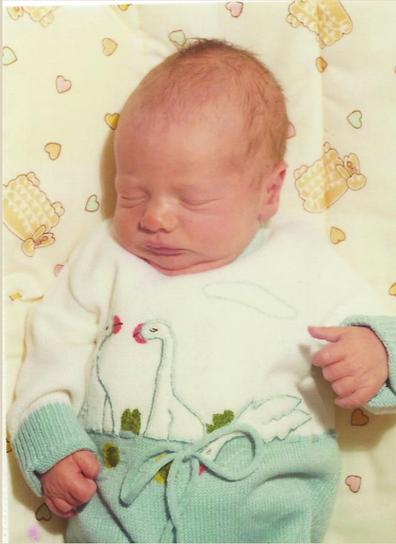
"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13



Short, But Oh So Powerful
By: Darin Wilkins

I've wanted to send this picture of Dennis that I've had for years. I still miss him. ~ Darin

Happy heavenly 41st birthday Denny Linky
~ We all miss you



*If you'd like to share a short story about Dennis in an upcoming issue, please send us an email at runwithdennis@yahoo.com.

[DONATE TO OUR FUND](#)

Golf with Dennis!



Thank you to all who came out for "Golf with Dennis" at Pine Barren Golf Club in Jackson. It was a beautiful day honoring our fallen heroes, veterans, and deployed soldiers in Dennis' honor. We enjoyed the course with great friends and appreciate the many laughs and camaraderie - all for an amazing cause!

Special appreciation to our generous sponsors who made it possible:

Dinner sponsors: Railroad Construction Company, Inc. & Hesse Construction Company

Flag sponsors: HNTB Corp., IFPTE Local 196, Elite Surfaces, L2M Construction, State Troopers NCO Association., State Troopers Fraternal Association.





Another Successful "Run with Dennis" 5k Run/Walk!



The Zilinski Memorial Fund is grateful for the large crowd that participated in the 16th Annual “Run with Dennis” 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, November 6, 2022. Crisp autumn weather made for perfect conditions for the more than two hundred runners and walkers at PNC Arts Center in Holmdel for a day of honoring veterans, deployed soldiers, and the fallen.

“It was another well-attended ‘Run with Dennis’, complete with a full ceremony to honor our veterans and the brave men and women who serve our country. It is both comforting and inspiring to the Zilinski family to have so much support from the community – including those from Dennis’ alma maters, West Point and Christian Brothers Academy,” said Marion Zilinski, Co-Founder and Board Member, The Zilinski Memorial Fund.

“The rigor of this course is symbolic, and that’s why we selected it. The steep incline up the hills is a reminder of the challenges faced by our veterans and military. We know the difficulty of the course gave runners added perspective of the sacrifices that are given for our freedom,” added Dennis Zilinski, Co-Founder and Board Member, the Zilinski Memorial Fund.

The West Point Swim Team led the race as a special tribute to Dennis, the team’s former captain. The West Point swimmers only missed one year of “Run with Dennis” due to Superstorm Sandy. The ceremony was also complete with songs by Rock ‘n Roll Chorus and beautiful words from Zilinski family members.

Many thanks to all who participated. Congratulations to the winners.... Well done!





Our Very Own David & Doc!

We're so proud to share this, if you haven't seen it already check out the links below! Our very own David & Doc were featured in Scholastic in November to explain the purpose of service dogs to kids. This was distributed to classrooms across the country! This is why we do what we do, and we couldn't do it without your support! THANK YOU!

Three different versions;
[For third graders](#)
[For fourth graders](#)
[For fifth & sixth graders](#)



HELPING AMERICA'S HEROES

Veteran David Crenshaw thanks his service dog for changing his life.

David Crenshaw and his daughters, Bradley and Charli, hang out with Doc at home.

AS YOU READ Find two ways that service dogs can help veterans.

David Crenshaw goes everywhere with his dog, Doc. The pup joins Crenshaw at his kids' soccer games, the store, and on runs in the park.

But Doc isn't just any pet. He's a service dog who's changed Crenshaw's life.

Serving Our Country
Crenshaw joined the United States military in 2000 when he was 17. He spent about 14 months fighting in a war in Iraq, a country in southwestern Asia. (The war took place from 2003 to 2011.) The experience in Iraq left him feeling **anxious**—even years after returning home to New Jersey. He had trouble sleeping and was on edge. In 2015, Crenshaw noticed he didn't feel like himself. He would get really stressed and have nightmares. Doctors told him he had post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

People can get PTSD after going through something very scary or dangerous. They may have strong feelings of sadness, anger, or fear. Studies show that as many as 20 out of 100 recent veterans have PTSD.

Crenshaw knew he needed help. He contacted K9s For Warriors. That group connects veterans with service dogs.

In 2019, Crenshaw was paired with Doc. The pup had been taught to calm people with PTSD. He wakes up Crenshaw during bad dreams. And he puts his head on Crenshaw to cheer him up.

Crenshaw now has the chance to get service dogs. The law is called the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans **Therapy Act**. It's nicknamed the PAWS Act. The law says veterans with PTSD can help train and adopt service dogs.

A Special Bond
Today, Crenshaw says Doc gave him a new path in life. The veteran now works with K9s For Warriors. He travels the country and shows others how service dogs can help veterans with PTSD.

Crenshaw also pushes for more laws like PAWS. "Doc gives me purpose," says Crenshaw gratefully. "I can't imagine my life without him."

—by Rebecca Zissou

WATCH A VIDEO Watch David Crenshaw and Doc.

WORDS TO KNOW
anxious: worried and fearful
therapy: treatment for problems that change how someone feels and acts

What Is Veterans Day?
We celebrate this special day every year on November 11. It's a time for Americans to thank and honor our more than 18 million veterans. These men and women have served in the military.

Illustration: Connor Blaney

November 7, 2022

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HELPING A HERO

U.S. Army veteran David Crenshaw needed help. His dog, Doc, came to the rescue.

THERE'S MORE ONLINE!



Honoring America's Veterans

Should Schools Ban Smartphones?



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FIND MORE
ONLINE!

Honoring America's Veterans

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A HERO'S BEST FRIEND

When U.S. Army veteran
David Crenshaw needed
help, his service dog
came to the rescue.

Wreaths Across America



Christian Brothers Academy Sophomore Organized Wreath Sponsorship Campaign in Honor of Our Dennis

Despite the rain and wind, volunteers with the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund helped

lay wreaths on the graves at Military Academy West Point Cemetery in West Point, New York, on December 3, 2022. It is an annual tradition for The Memorial Fund to take a bus full of volunteers from the Jersey Shore for this event. As many of you know, our Dennis was a West Point grad, and it's where he is laid to rest.

Nicholas Codispoti, a 16-year-old from Holmdel and sophomore at CBA, led the efforts and raised enough funds to sponsor about 1,500 wreaths in Dennis' honor. The effort was part of his community service project for his scholarship through the Memorial Fund. Nicholas took over last year for his sister, Jordan Codispoti, a Trinity Hall High School graduate who now attends college, who led the wreath sponsorship campaign for us for several years. This year, Nicholas took his wreath sales to a higher level, using more business cards with a QR code.

"People see it and scan it right away. It helps because they scan it right away in front of me and I can direct them to my page. It helped raise awareness too because students, teachers, friends, family, and other members of the community went to the website and read about Dennis and our cause," said Nicholas Codispoti.

"Our sincere thanks to Nicholas for honoring our son Dennis; and all those laid to rest at West Point Cemetery," said Dennis Zilinski, Co-Founder and Board Member of the Zilinski Memorial Fund. "We are truly grateful to everyone who participated for remembering and honoring the fallen."

The Zilinski Memorial Fund also donated \$10,000 to Wreaths Across America for additional wreaths. Through this generous donation, more of the 7,050 graves at West Point Cemetery were covered. As each wreath was placed on a grave, volunteers read aloud the name of each soldier. Yes, it was a soggy and cold day, but an incredibly meaningful one.





Holiday Cheer to Our Service Members Overseas!



“It is so important that you are here today, thank you for that,” said Marion Zilinski, Co-Founder and Board Member of The Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund. Marion spoke to the large crowd of police officers, veterans, and students of all ages at the 19th Annual “Trees for Troops” in Oceanside, Long Island.

“Freedom is not free. It is paid for with the sacrifice and hard work of our military. A Christmas tree, a menorah, lights to put up, decorations, cards from all of you... just knowing someone back here at home cares means so, so very much,” she added.

While on stage, Marion also presented the Memorial Fund's annual check to Dees' Nursery. The donation helps them provide fresh cut Christmas trees and all the other decorations to our deployed soldiers.

With a well-organized police escort, the trees were driven to JFK Airport followed by a caravan of cars. On the tarmac, Marion, along with Board Members Quentin Walsh and his wife Ellen, helped carry the trees from the truck to the DHL plane. Dozens of other helpers, including a local high school hockey team, veterans, police officers, and members of the community, assisted.

DHL then flew the trees and holiday decorations to our troops in several countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Again, the season of giving made its way to our service members overseas thanks to the kindness of others. Special thanks to all who bundled up on the cold day to make it happen!



THE TREES ARRIVED!



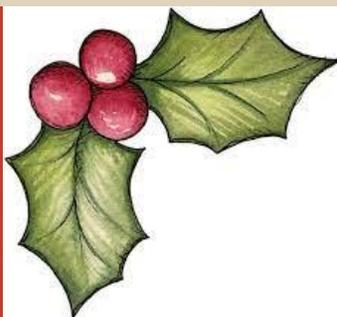
Holiday Collections for our Deployed Troops!



Bravo to Bailey Baxter! She's an 8th grade student at Bolger Middle School in Keansburg. Not only did she place donation boxes around the Borough of Keansburg but she also received donations from the American Legion, Project Paul, and the VFW in Hazlet. Bailey managed this giant collection around her community. Her efforts are simply amazing, and she's an incredible example to all!

Our friends at PSE&G also continue their giving campaign through our Fund, and we receive items off of our Amazon wish list every week from their generous employees.

The Zilinski Memorial Fund boxed up the numerous food items, snacks, and personal care items collected and mailed it all to various locations around the globe! We know these care packages will bring much holiday cheer to our men and women serving our country who are far away from home, their families, and their friends. Thank you to all who participated!



From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and an amazing New Year!

2023 Upcoming Events

BlueClaws Military Appreciation Night - TBD
Golf with Dennis @ WestLake - TBD
A Toast to Dennis - A Night of Remembrance - September 8th
Golf with Dennis @ Pine Barrens - October 16th
Run with Dennis - November 5th
Wreaths across America - December 2nd

DONATE NOW

Visit our website

The Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law (Tax ID # 03-0601077).

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