

Dezil's Dispatch

Issue 009

Newsletter

Spring 2023

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



By Kathy Colmorgen

Dennis was a student in my fifth grade class at Middletown Village School. I remember him as always trying his hardest to do the best that he could. If he was stuck on something, he worked hard to master it. He was helpful, friendly and seemed to be constantly smiling.

As I have attended the Run with Dennis events and listened to the tributes as well as seeing his photos, I am reminded of the young boy that I taught. He had grown into a fine young adult but his smiling face is still the one that I remember. Listening to his fellow soldiers talk about him, I know that the personality that he showed as a fifth grader grew with him into the soldier and leader he became.

***If you'd like to share a short story about Dennis in an upcoming issue, please send us an**

DONATE TO OUR FUND

PSEG Employees Partner with Zilinski Memorial Fund to Bring Cheer to Deployed Troops

Third Year of Partnership More Successful Than Ever!

Two cars full of supplies, care items, and goodies pulled up to the Zilinski home in Jackson in late January. This was the last batch of items collected by PSEG employees to send to deployed American troops through a partnership with the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund. The Zilinski Memorial Fund then boxed the items according to military protocol and shipped them out to troops across the globe, including Africa, Iraq, Germany, Poland, and other undisclosed locations.



Jenna Rossi, the Community Outreach Lead for PSEG Veterans, is her company's organizer for the holiday collection campaign. She helped drop off the items along with Shakira Maze, Distribution Business Team Leader at PSEG, and Senior Airman with the U.S. Airforce. "PSEG Vets – a group of employees at PSEG – work hard to support veterans, their families, and our deployed troops to give back. I am so proud to be a part of this. Being a patriot supporting those who protect our freedom, acknowledging their sacrifice, it is a small part that I can do," said Rossi. "There was nothing small about this PSEG holiday campaign to bring cheer to our troops.

This holiday season alone, the Zilinski Memorial Fund has been able to ship out more than 100 large boxes of goodies, supplies, and care items to our deployed men and women thanks to the generosity of PSEG colleagues. It has been an absolute blessing, and throughout the fall and winter we have been regularly receiving items from them to ship out. As a Gold Star Mother, I truly wish I could hug each one of the PSEG employees who donated," said Marion Zilinski, Co-Founder and Board Member of the Zilinski Memorial Fund.

Rossi took the reins two years ago from Cindy Malmo, Sr. Administrative Associate at PSEG in Newark, New Jersey, who recently retired. Malmo is also a Gold Star Mother. Her son, Staff Sgt. Michael Hullender of Little Falls, New Jersey, an Army medic, was killed at the age of 29 in 2007 in Iraq after an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit as he prepared wounded soldiers for medical transport. Hullender was a decorated soldier who was among those who parachuted into Afghanistan soon after the September 11th attack. He was awarded a Bronze Star and earned numerous medals and recognitions including the National Defense Service Medal, The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

Gold Mother to Gold Mother - Malmo turned to Marion Zilinski in 2020 for help through the Zilinski Memorial Fund to get goodies like protein bars, deodorant, coffee K-cups, beef jerky, canned soups, and Gatorade drink packets to our deployed troops. Due to Covid, the donations all had to be online. So, an Amazon Wish List was set up and employees simply clicked on the items they wanted to purchase, which also included trail mix, apple sauce, chips, cereals, paper

plates, plastic cutlery, rice, pasta, candy, tea bags, and cookies. Then, the items were shipped directly to the Zilinski Memorial Fund.

Some of the troops who received the care packages also joined the Zilinski Memorial Fund's World Tour Run, which coincided with our Run with Dennis 5K Walk/Run in November 2022 at PNC Arts Center in Holmdel, in honor of our Dennis to share their gratitude.

We've included some pictures that we received of our soldiers opening these boxes up around the world!





Shore to Help



Special thanks to “Shore to Help” in Monmouth Beach for the generous donation it made to the Memorial Fund. Donations like this help us continue our mission to help wounded American veterans and support our deployed service members.

Military Working Dogs Love Receiving Goodies, Too!



We recently received this thank you note from Sgt. Colin:

“I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the K9 teams forwardly deployed. The care package you sent not only has benefited our dogs with toys and hygiene items but the letters have impacted our handlers with a sense of purpose to keep pushing through deployment. Attached is a photo (above) of Military working dog Ayda with the care package you blessed us with. Thank you again!”

From all of us at the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund, Sgt. Colin and Ayda, you are welcome! We are honored to support all of our deployed military, including our deserving Military Working Dogs!

Markham Does Care!



We are proud to again be part of the Markham Cares Program this year! Our Marion, Dennis, and Matt Zilinski spoke to 6th grade students at Markham Place School recently about the sacrifices of our service members to preserve our freedom. Many thanks to teachers, parents, and students who collected goodies and necessities to send to our deployed troops.



Congratulations to Our Latest K9 Graduate and His Warrior!



A round of applause for Ryan and Scout! Another service dog sponsored by the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund graduated from the K9s for Warriors program with his new warrior. Our Board Member Quentin Walsh, and his wife Ellen, were present to cheer them on!

One of the main accomplishments of The Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund is sponsoring dogs for disabled American veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI. To date, the Memorial Fund has sponsored more than 100 service dogs.

Thorne Middle School Gives Us A Warm Welcome!



The folks at Thorne Middle School - our Dennis' Alma Mater - truly warm our hearts! We held the kickoff recently of their three week collection for our deployed troops. We presented to four 8th grade classes about the sacrifices of our service members, and as always they made us feel so welcomed. We are grateful for this longtime partnership and look forward to visiting again when their collection is complete. Of course, the Memorial Fund will box everything up according to military protocol and mail the items to our most deserving service men and women.



There are Ways You Can Help!



MOST NEEDED ITEMS

GATORADE DRINK POWDER
GRANOLA BARS
TRAIL MIX
APPLE SAUCE
CHIPS/DORITOS/
PRETZELS/SNACKS
CANNED SOUPS
CEREAL (CHEERIOS, RAISIN BRAN,
FROSTED FLAKES, COCOA PUFFS)
POPCORN
COFFEE K CUPS OR GROUND
PROTEIN BARS
POP TARTS
BREAKFAST BARS
OATMEAL
BEEF JERKY
DEODORANT
TUBE ONLY - SHAVING CREAM
PAPER PLATES
PLASTIC SILVERWARE
RICE (10 MINUTE RICE BAGS)
PASTA
MAC-N-CHEESE
CANDY/COOKIES
LEMONADE AND ICED TEA MIX
TEA BAGS

Please consider buying "most needed items" from our list above. You can purchase them online from your favorite retail website and have them shipped directly to us at:

Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund
76 Crooked Stick Road
Jackson, NJ 08527

The Memorial Fund will cover the postage and box the items according to government protocol for overseas deliveries to our service members. Thank you for your help and support!

Our Annual Visit to Children of Deployed Soldiers



One of our favorite things each year is our trip to Pemberton. We love showing holiday cheer to the families of deployed soldiers at the Early Learning Center! Again this year, we met with children with parents away from home who are serving our country. We brought them stuffed animals and distributed gift cards. It's a small gesture for their incredible sacrifice for our freedom.



Honoring Our Veterans on D-Day!

We are excited for our annual night at Jersey Shore BlueClaws Stadium in Lakewood! This year, our night comes a little earlier in the summer. We will be honoring our veterans, and especially our WWII veterans on D-Day, which is June 6, 2023. We look forward to our delicious picnic and a great night of baseball. Our sign-up ticket form will be available online shortly so stay tuned. If you'd like a hard copy, email us at runwithdennis@yahoo.com and we'll be happy to mail you one. We hope you can join us!



2023 Upcoming Events

BlueClaws Outing - June 6th
Golf with Dennis @ Westlake - July 24th
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

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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).

Check us out on social media...

