Dezil's Dispatch

Issue 017 **Newsletter** **Spring 2025**

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

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

DONATE TO OUR FUND

Markham School Gives Back to Our Troops - Again!


MARKHAM CARES


EXIT
VARIETY COFFEE
SINGLE SERVE CUPS
Signature SELECT
36
ORGANIC



Markham Place School in Little Silver has done it again! The incredible staff, teachers, families, and students came together to collect generous donations for our service members deployed overseas. From snacks and drink mixes to essential assorted hygiene items and socks, their contributions will bring comfort and support to those serving far from home.

As part of this annual initiative, our board members—Marion and Dennis Zilinski, their son Matt Zilinski, and David Crenshaw—visited the school's 6th-grade science class to share personal stories about military service and sacrifice. Matt, who recently returned from a year-long deployment in Syria, spoke about the challenges of being away from his wife, three young daughters, parents, and friends while serving our country.

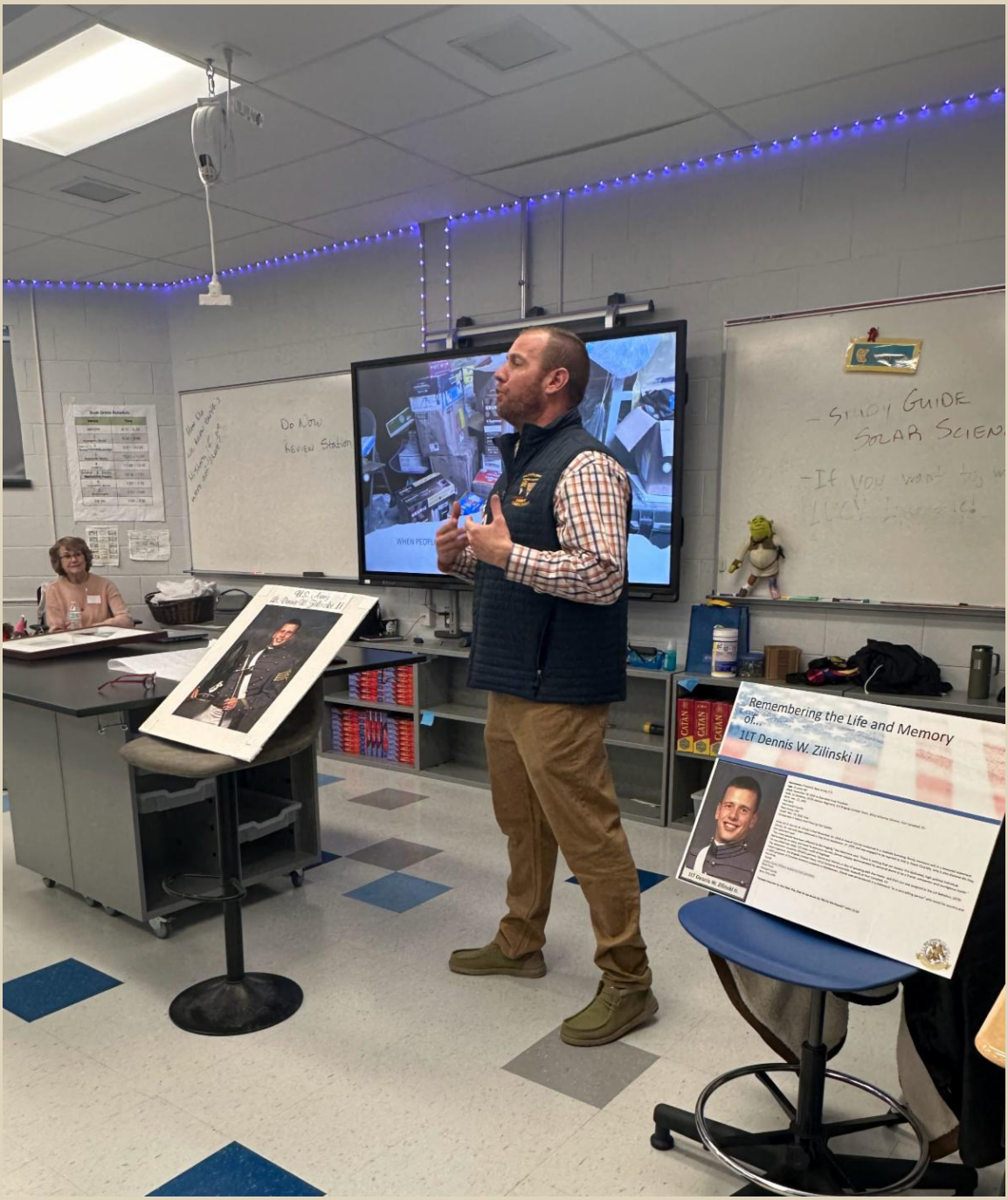
The students were deeply moved by the presentation. Juliana Galkin shared, "I loved the presentation and thought it was interesting. I liked what the Zilinski Memorial Fund does." Braeden Shields found it particularly inspiring, saying, "I loved the stories he (Matt Zilinski) told. I was happy to help send the packages to the troops." And Mikey Messano appreciated the visuals, adding, "I liked the pictures they showed us and learning what the organization does."

To express gratitude for Markham School's kindness and commitment, Matt presented the school

with a framed American flag that flew in Syria during his deployment. This meaningful gift symbolizes the strong connection between the school community and our brave service members.

After the event, the Zilinski Memorial Fund carefully packed the donations according to government regulations and covered the postage costs to ensure the care packages reached their destinations. We eagerly await letters and photos from our troops, who will no doubt be uplifted by these thoughtful gifts—reminders of home and the unwavering support they have back in the U.S.

Thank you, Markham School, for standing with our service members and making a difference!





CBA Students Raise More Than $50,000 for The Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund


MEN OF CHARACTER
MEN OF ACTION
COLTS


COLTS



Christian Brothers Academy students exceeded their fundraising goal, raising more than $50,000 at their Second Annual “Row with Dennis” ergathon at our Dennis’ alma mater. Event co-chairs Kieran Feeney, Henry Kreitz, and Finn Buckley led the effort, continuing the tradition started by CBA senior Jack Keavey to raise funds to help wounded warriors and deployed troops.

“I am so proud and thankful for our CBA community,” said Feeney.

“Seeing how much we donated really shows the possibility of changing lives.” Kreitz added, “Being tasked with this event has been an incredible experience. I’m so thankful for Jack, the Zilinski Memorial Fund, and the coaching staff for their guidance and support.”

Buckley shared, “To be able to give back to those who give so much for us will forever bring joy to my life.”

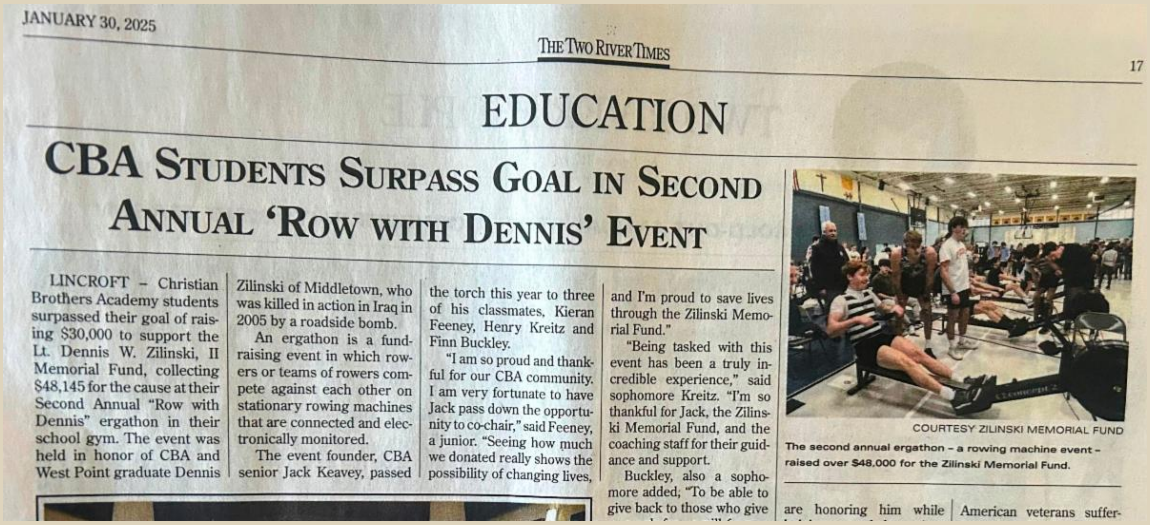
Marion Zilinski, Co-Founder of the Zilinski Memorial Fund and Dennis’ mother, expressed gratitude: “What this event means to us is immeasurable. You are honoring Dennis while helping wounded warriors.”

Special thanks to Coach Brenin Ford, CBA family, staff, and parents, and all other donors for their generous support.





In The News



JANUARY 30, 2025 THE TWO RIVER TIMES 17

EDUCATION

CBA Students Surpass Goal in Second Annual 'Row with Dennis' Event

LINCROFT – Christian Brothers Academy students surpassed their goal of raising $30,000 to support the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund, collecting $48,145 for the cause at their Second Annual "Row with Dennis" ergathon in their school gym. The event was held in honor of CBA and West Point graduate Dennis Zilinski of Middletown, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2005 by a roadside bomb.

An ergathon is a fundraising event in which rowers or teams of rowers compete against each other on stationary rowing machines that are connected and electronically monitored.

The event founder, CBA senior Jack Keavey, passed the torch this year to three of his classmates, Kieran Feeney, Henry Kreitz and Finn Buckley.

"I am so proud and thankful for our CBA community. I am very fortunate to have Jack pass down the opportunity to co-chair," said Feeney, a junior. "Seeing how much we donated really shows the possibility of changing lives, and I'm proud to save lives through the Zilinski Memorial Fund."

"Being tasked with this event has been a truly incredible experience," said sophomore Kreitz. "I'm so thankful for Jack, the Zilinski Memorial Fund, and the coaching staff for their guidance and support.

Buckley, also a sophomore added; "To be able to give back to those who give

COURTESY ZILINSKI MEMORIAL FUND

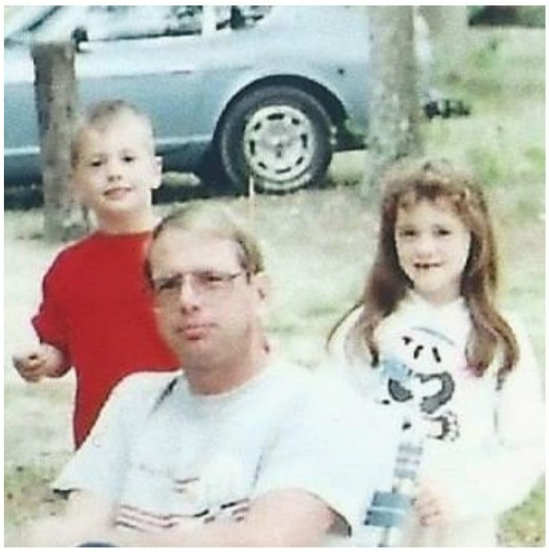
The second annual ergathon – a rowing machine event – raised over $48,000 for the Zilinski Memorial Fund.

are honoring him while American veterans suffer-

Middletown Patch Article

The Monmouth Journal Article

A Dose of Dennis



For those that didn't have the amazing opportunity to know Dennis.....even as a kid, he was a great leader, we all looked up to him. Our little group of "Goonies" loved to be out in nature making our own adventures! Go out and explore this Spring and think of Dennis!

*****We need your memories and stories about Dennis so those who never got the pleasure of meeting and knowing him can get a glimpse into who Dennis was. If you'd like to share a short story about Dennis in an upcoming issue, please send us an email at runwithdennis@yahoo.com.**

A Sweet Treat For Our Troops, Thanks to Taylor and Girl Scouts Troop 60586



Once again, Taylor from Girl Scout Howell Troop 60586 has gone above and beyond, collecting many cases of delicious Girl Scout cookies for our deployed service members. Her generosity—and the support of her fellow scouts and local families—will bring a taste of home to those bravely serving overseas. Receiving a box of Girl Scout cookies is a special moment of joy in the middle of long deployments. These sweet treats offer a sense of normalcy, a break from the routine, and a delicious reminder that people back home are thinking of them.

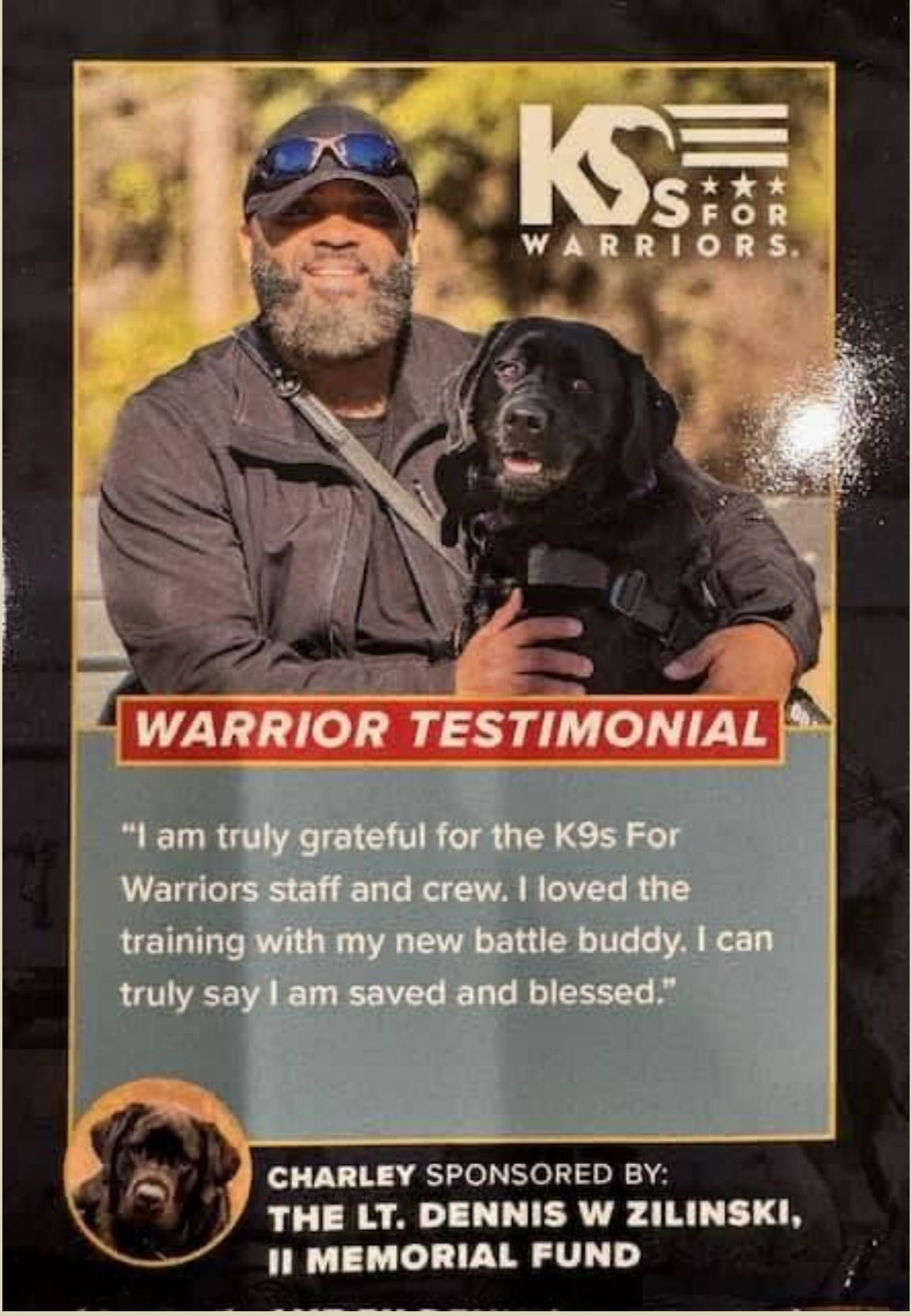
From the cool, chocolatey crunch of Thin Mints to the rich caramel and coconut goodness of Samoas, plus nuts, chocolates, and candy, every box is sure to bring a smile to a service member's face.

Year after year, Taylor arrives with so much joy, proudly wearing her Girl Scout vest adorned with countless patches and pins—a true testament to her hard work and dedication. Her kindness and commitment to giving back make a lasting impact on our troops, reminding them that they are

supported and appreciated.

Thank you, Taylor, and all of Girl Scout Troop 60586, for your generosity and dedication of our heroes!

A Special Discovery in San Diego: K9s for Warriors Trading Cards



While our Board Member David Crenshaw was attending the Stryker Medical Orthopedic Convention in San Diego, he stumbled upon something truly special—K9s for Warriors trading cards proudly on display. To our delight, two of our sponsored service dogs were featured, each with powerful testimonials from the wounded warriors they now stand beside.

One of the cards highlighted Charley, a black Labrador rescue, paired with a warrior through our foundation's sponsorship, the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund. Here's part of the heartfelt message his warrior shared: "I loved the training with my new battle buddy. I can truly say I am saved and blessed."

Another trading card featured Sandy, a rescued German Shepherd, alongside a female warrior who found comfort and companionship in her new partner. She expressed: "Sandy gives me a reason to wake up and smile. She stays by my side no matter what. She accepts me the way I am, and I accept her the way she is."

Finding these cards was a wonderful reminder of the impact that service dogs have on the lives of our nation’s heroes. We are honored to support the training of these incredible K9s, knowing they provide not just companionship, but life-changing support for our wounded warriors.

Together, we continue to make a difference—one warrior, one dog, one unbreakable bond at a time.



Making a Difference by Saving Lives - One Warrior and Rescue Dog at a Time!





It was a joy to witness Warrior Jennifer graduate with her service dog, Glory, at the ceremony in Florida recently with K9s For Warriors. Glory's training was sponsored by Debbie and Joseph Panico of Jackson, New Jersey, through the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund.

Joseph and Debbie, thank you for your generosity, kindness, and commitment to the service members who sacrifice so much for our freedom.



K9s for Warriors: Salute To Heroes Gala 2025





K9s for Warriors held their 3rd annual Salute To Heroes Gala on February 7th, 2025 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. We had some of our Board Members in attendance for this wonderful event.



ICAP and Their Generous Support!



Great news for the Memorial Fund! We are excited to share that ICAP will be sponsoring two service dogs through the Memorial Fund to be paired with wounded warriors. This incredible support is a significant step in helping our heroes find the assistance they need.

This continued generosity comes after our recent experience at ICAP Charity Day in New York City. Our own Adam Satzmam and his service dog, Joan, had the honor of meeting country music star Brad Paisley and Oswaldo Cabrera from the New York Yankees. We are truly thankful for the ongoing support from ICAP for our wounded warriors and deployed service members.



Ways You Can Help!



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!

2025 Upcoming Events

BlueClaws Baseball Outing - June 17th

A Toast to Dennis - A Night of Remembrance - September 5th

Golf with Dennis - October 20th

Run with Dennis - November 9th

Wreaths Across America Bus Trip - December 6th

Trees for Troops at Dee's Nursery - December 8th

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).

Check us out on social media...

Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund | P.O. Box 124 | Adelphia, NJ 07710 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!