

Dezil's Dispatch

Issue 018

Newsletter

Summer 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

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**A Homerun: Our Annual Jersey Shore BlueClaws
Game on D-Day Anniversary was a BIG WIN!**





The Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund marked the 81st anniversary of D-Day with a heartfelt evening of remembrance, baseball, and a picnic at Jersey Shore BlueClaws Stadium on June 6, 2025. Supporters and veterans came together wearing royal blue t-shirts emblazoned with the words, “Got freedom? Thank a veteran.”

“The shirt says it all,” said Marion Zilinski, Dennis’ mother, Co-Founder of the Memorial Fund, and Board Member. “Our goal is to keep the memories of our heroes alive - not just through ceremonies, but through action and community. This event is one way we show our gratitude, and it fills my heart to see so many families and veterans join us to reflect and remember.” The evening was filled with emotion and pride as the ceremonial first pitches were thrown by Matt Zilinski (Dennis’ brother) and Alan Van Saun (Dennis’ roommate at West Point), both Board Members of the Memorial Fund. Matt’s wife, Brie, and their three daughters joined him on the field, creating a touching moment that underscored the importance of honoring service through generations.

The event also highlighted the Memorial Fund’s wide-reaching efforts to support military families. Board Chair Steve Hoptay provided live commentary from the press box, enthusiastically sharing details about the organization’s mission and programs. “It was an important opportunity to raise awareness,” said Hoptay. “I’m happy to have mentioned our website multiple times throughout the interview so fans could learn more about what we do year-round—from care packages for deployed troops to sponsoring service dogs for wounded veterans.”

Families attending the event enjoyed an all-American cookout before the game, complete with hamburgers, hot dogs, barbecue chicken, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, and fresh-baked cookies. The Memorial Fund also sponsored tickets for members of Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 74 in Freehold, ensuring they could be part of the tribute.



**Mark Your Calendars for Our Annual
A Toast to Dennis - A Night of Remembrance Gala**



Join us for an unforgettable evening at the A Toast to Dennis: A Night of Remembrance Gala on Friday, September 5, 2025, at the beautiful Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club in Farmingdale. This annual event honors the memory of Dennis and helps us raise critical funds to support service dogs for our wounded American warriors.

Expect a night filled with live music, gourmet food, dancing, and exciting auction items - including an incredible oceanfront getaway at the "Big House" in Corolla, North Carolina. This magnificent 12-bedroom home in the Outer Banks features multi-level decks with stunning views, a pool, hot tub, elevator, gas fireplace, and pool table - a perfect retreat for a family or group escape.







We are especially grateful to Alan Van Saun, Dennis' roommate at West Point Academy, for stepping in as the Master of Ceremony last year while our regular host, Matt Zilinski, served overseas in Syria. We're thrilled to welcome Matt back home safely and excited for his return this year as MC.

Let's raise our glasses - and our support - for those who've sacrificed so much. We hope to see you there!



100 Cases of Girl Scout Cookies for Deployed Troops



There's a special kind of hero who wears a sash covered in badges, a big smile, and a heart full of service. Meet Taylor from Girl Scout Troop 60586, who has once again gone above and beyond to show support for our deployed service members.

Taylor has made it a tradition to collect Girl Scout cookies and deliver them to the Zilinski Memorial Fund, ensuring that troops stationed far from home receive a delicious reminder that they are loved, remembered, and appreciated. This year, with the incredible support of the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore, Taylor brought us an astounding 100 cases of cookies!

Thanks to Taylor's dedication, our troops will soon be opening boxes packed with fan favorites like Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Trefoils, Lemonades, and Adventurefuls. Each cookie is more than just a treat - it's a sweet symbol of home, a break in the day, and a connection to the country and community they serve so bravely.

We hear from service members all the time about how much they look forward to these packages. A single sleeve of Thin Mints can turn a tough day into a moment of joy. A box of Trefoils can bring back memories of home, family, and comfort. It's amazing what a little sugar and a lot of heart can do.

From all of us at the Zilinski Memorial Fund, thank you to Taylor and the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore! Your cookies carry more than flavor - they carry hope, joy, and a powerful reminder that they are loved.



A Dose of Dennis



Go and travel this Summer, Dennis loved adventures!

*****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.**

Westlake Golf Outing: A Day on the Green to Support Our Mission





What a turn out! On Monday, June 23rd, we tee'd off in support of our mission to serve disabled American veterans and support our troops overseas. The golf outing took place at the beautiful Westlake Golf and Country Club in Jackson to benefit the Zilinski Memorial Fund.

This event isn't just about birdies and bogeys - it's about community, camaraderie, and giving back to those who serve. Westlake is home to an incredible group of residents, many of whom are proud veterans. Their continued support of our mission means the world to us, and we are deeply honored to partner with such a patriotic and generous community.

This golf outing delivered on its promise to be a day full of laughs, heartfelt moments, and meaningful impact. Whether you're swinging for a hole-in-one or just out to enjoy the sunshine and support our troops, this event brings a chance to make a difference while having a great time.

We can't wait to see you on the course again next year. Together, we'll honor our heroes - one

swing at a time. Thank you to all who came out and supported this amazing event this year!





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Boxes: 168
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Thank you to all our donors for every single dollar that you send us. We wouldn't be able to continue this support of our troops if it weren't for all the love and donations.

Representing in Style



Our Board Members, Matt Zilinski and David Crenshaw, represented the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund and the U.S. Army in style, at the 63rd Annual Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at their New York Leatherneck Campaign Celebratory Ball.

2025 Upcoming Events

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).

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