



A Toast to Dennis
A Night of Remembrance

AD JOURNAL

September 5, 2025

Eagle Oaks Country Club

PRESENTED BY THE LT. DENNIS W. ZILINSKI, II MEMORIAL FUND





Rostron Premium Home Services, a veteran owned company, proudly remembers Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II. For all our veterans and those serving, Thank You for protecting our country and freedoms!

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Welcome and Thank You

On behalf of the Zilinski Family, the Board of Directors, and the Toast Committee, we are proud and grateful to welcome you to this evening's event, our:

17th Annual - A Toast to Dennis - A Night of Remembrance.

As we honor and celebrate the Life and Legacy of Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II, who made the ultimate sacrifice on November 19, 2005, in Bayji, Iraq. We need to remember his deep love of God and Country. Over the years, our dedicated board members and volunteers have worked with the same passion that Dennis exhibited throughout his life.

As a result of their hard work and commitment and YOUR generosity we have raised more than \$2 million dollars.

We cannot Thank You, the donors, enough for your continued support of our fund and this event. These funds have allowed us to provide much needed assistance to our Veteran Community, Active-Duty Military Members, Military Working Dogs, and those Warriors in Need that quietly live within our own communities.

Tonight, we are fortunate to have several warriors in attendance with us whose lives have been saved and transformed because of the strength of their families, the support of their service dog, and the Blessings of the Almighty. Please take time to talk with these warriors and thank them for their sacrifices and ability to motivate others.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the founding and past board members, who in 2006 provided the vision and direction that has allowed us to carry on the Legacy of Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II.

Most especially we thank Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II and his fellow fallen comrades from all branches of the military for their ultimate sacrifices.

May God continue to Bless all our troops and their families and may God Bless the United States of America!

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Be Well

Steve Hoptay - Board Chair





Let it be known that those
who wear the Purple Heart
have given their blood in the
defense of their homeland and
shall forever be revered by
their countrymen.



A Toast to Our Fallen Comrades

Ladies and Gentlemen, we'd like to bring your attention to
the small table, set for one, in a place of honor.

This table is the military's way of acknowledging
that members of this

Proud profession are missing from our midst.

They are POWS, MIAs and those like

1LT. Dennis W. Zilinski, II - United States Army,
Who were killed in action. We call them brothers.

They are unable to be with us this evening,
So we remember them because of their sacrifice.

The tablecloth is white, symbolizing
the purity of their intentions

To respond to their country's call to arms.

The single rose in the vase reminds us of
the families and loved ones

Of our Comrades-in-Arms,

Who keep faith, awaiting their return.

The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase,

Is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon

the lapel and breast of thousands

Who bear witness to their underlying determination

To demand a proper accounting of our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate,

To remind us of their bitter fate.

The salt is symbolic of the tears, as they wait.

The glass is inverted, he cannot toast with us this night.

The chair is empty, he is not here.

Remember them, all of you who served with them
and called them Comrade,

Who defended upon their might and aid and relied upon them,
For surely they have not forgotten you.

Tonight we toast 1LT. Dennis W. Zilinski, II
and all of the Fallen Comrades and
Honor their memory.





“Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?”

Henry H. Griffith

America is a beacon of hope, liberty, and justice. But America today is deeply divided. Issues have turned into ideologies, and they have been weaponized by both sides of the political spectrum. People who disagree about climate change or about immigration or about almost any other issue now seem to see each other as enemies to be beaten, rather than as fellow citizens to be reasoned with. Abraham Lincoln warned us: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Divided as we are, can we stand? I believe we can. And I found hope at a table set for one.

Recently, my parents attended a charity dinner honoring Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II, a soldier who had been killed in action in Iraq. When they got back from dinner, they told me all about it. One table, smaller than the others, was separate from the rest. There was only a one place setting at the table. The setting was simple. A white tablecloth. A single rose in a vase with a yellow ribbon around it. The glass was upside down on the table. And there was a single slice of lemon on the plate.

I didn’t really know what to make of it until my dad told me about the toast before dinner, when a U.S. Army Colonel stood up and explained that each element of the place setting was in honor of Lt. Zilinski and the other soldiers like him who were killed or missing in action. The white tablecloth symbolized the soldiers’ purity of motive in answering the call to arms. The red rose stood for the blood they shed for their country. The yellow ribbon represented the ribbons worn by their loved ones at home. The lemon stood for the bitterness of their fate. The glass, upside down, meant that they would not join in this toast.

Tears welled up in my eyes when I understood the meaning of the table. At that moment I knew that this country is strong still. It is held together by blood and love and shared commitment to the ideals for which our forefathers have fought for and sacrificed for over generations. We are held up and held together by each other. By our common bond.





Families do not always agree. My father and my uncle can't get through Thanksgiving dinner without arguing about politics. But before and after the meal, and even during the argument, they love one another as family. There is no getting away from that.

I am sure that Lt. Zilinski did not agree with every other soldier in the barracks about politics. But I am sure he agreed on what their duty was to their country. Our soldiers sacrifice everything for us, simply to keep the Union together.

The United States of America will survive its trials and tribulations because of the spirit of the nation, the noble blood that every American carries and our values that cannot be compromised. And our soldiers exhibit these qualities most of all. America's soldiers exhibit the most indomitable of spirits, the noblest and bravest blood and values that cannot be changed even in the face of death. Our soldiers are the ones who carry the nation forward on their backs, setting an example for every American. Being who we as patriots aspire to be. And our soldiers are the reason American is its forefathers' vision today.

With the spirit, noble blood and uncompromising values of our soldiers, America's unity cannot be defeated. People will try to divide us, and people have tried, but we stand strong together as a nation. We can and will overcome these divisions in society today as one nation under God with our soldiers leading the way. So, regardless of what chaos and division people may try to cause in the United States, we will stand united with our soldiers to fulfill our forefather's vision, and it always will be.





A Toast to Dennis A Night of Remembrance

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LT. DENNIS W. ZILINSKI, II
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A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Our mission is to honor the life and memory of Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II and to provide support to improve the morale and welfare of the members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

A special Thank you and Congratulations to the entire Toast to Dennis committee for their commitment and hard work for this year's event.

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The Lt Dennis W. Zilinski, II Memorial Fund is a
501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization,
created in 2006 to honor the memory and
spirit for life of
1stLt Dennis W. Zilinski, II US ARMY

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A Toast to Dennis

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In Honor of
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and in support of all our men and
women in uniform and their
sacrifice of their families.



Dean and MaryAnn Janeway



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“All the great things are simple, and
many can be expressed in a single word:
Freedom;
Justice;
Honor;
Duty;
Mercy;
Hope”

~Winston Churchill

With gratitude to the men and women
of our armed services who selfishly
defend our country and our way of life.

The Timothy 6:17 Foundation



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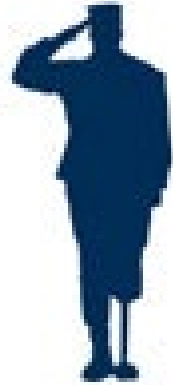
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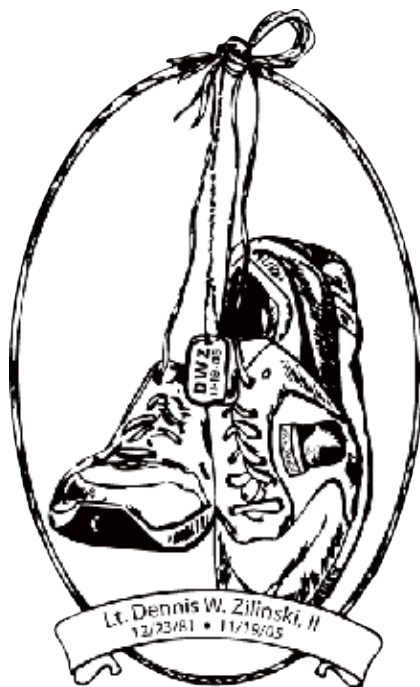


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GOD BLESS the Defenders



**We salute the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II
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support our men and
women in uniform.

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lives if they’ve
made a difference.
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have that problem”

- Ronald Reagan
40th President

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“The American
soldier fights not
because he hates
what is in front of
him, but because
he loves what is
behind him”

- Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense

Memorial Day 2025

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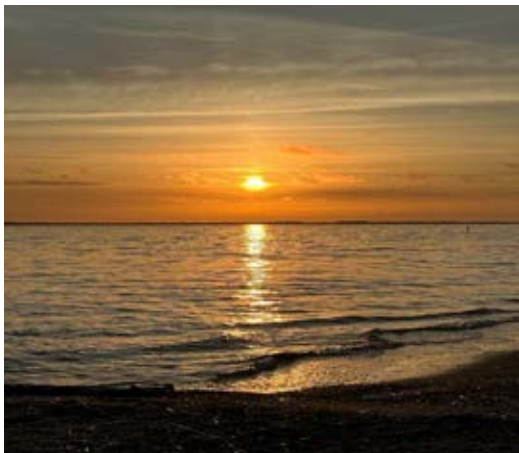
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KIA Afghanistan – August 20, 2003

WILLIAM H. JARRARD, US NAVY
April 17, 1934 – July 9, 2025

1Lt. DENNIS W. ZILINSKI, II, US ARMY
KIA IRAQ – November 19, 2005





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possible without the tremendous
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Again, we say

Thank you!



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For all they do, and to

Honor the memory of

1Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski, II

And all those who paid the ultimate price for
our freedom.

We salute ALL of our
Service men and women.



Steve and Beverly Hoptay





Always Honored ~ Always Remembered ~

Today and every day we say thank you to Dennis and his brothers and sisters in arms for the sacrifice that they have made for our continued freedom.

Joanne & Bill Trust





*You never know
how strong you
are*

*until being strong is
the only choice you
have.*









1LT Dennis W. Zilinski, II
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There's nothing like the presence of God to get you through the absolute worst loss that you will ever suffer in your life, that of one of your beloved children.

Losing you Dennis rocked our world, but never our love and pride for you, and not even our faith that with God all things are ok.

You have taught us what complete service to others is, how to not quit when we are so tired and worn down, but our mission remains strong. And just when we are thinking of giving up, the signs from Heaven reign down on us, letting us know that you are right here with us always.

Until we are reunited your light still shines brightly in us and in our world around us. We miss you and will love you forever. We still are a family of 7 strong.

Love,
Mom and Dad
XXXOOO







Dennis,

We didn't understand how quiet life would be without you here. We remember you in the morning, at night, when we look at the stars or hear a song. You are always with us. Sand in the hourglass keeps moving, time does not stand still. 20 years of not hugging you or hearing your laugh. We will never forget all the good times we had together. The ways we miss you that can't be explained. The special times will not return, and our family will never be whole. You're not here and yet you're everywhere. Just know that we will bring the best of you with us always.

We love you so much. Until we are all together again, The Fab 5.

Love,
Doug, Shelly, Tiffany, Matt





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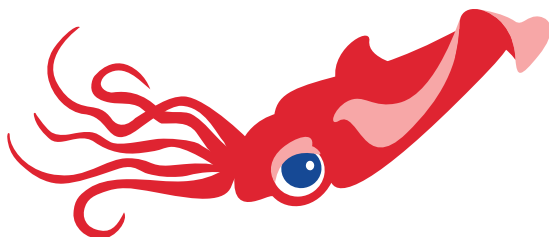
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- **\$200,000.00 donated to sponsor Service Dogs**

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Support for the Soldier*
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Established 1966

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We have purchased, trained, and paired NINE service dogs with Monmouth/Ocean County Veterans and family members. We host two Pancake Breakfasts, in October and March, and a Golf Outing in May, to raise funds to support our service dog program.

VETERAN SUPPORT/RECOGNITION:

We co-host an annual Veterans Day luncheon to honor local veterans, in partnership with the Eatontown Industrial Park Association. This year, on November 6th, we will especially honor local Green Beret/Special Forces Veterans.

SUPPORT TO FALLEN HEROES:

We present special "Honor and Remember" flags to the families of New Jersey service members killed in action during the annual New Jersey Run for the Fallen on the last weekend in September.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

We award annual scholarships to local high school seniors who have participated in their Junior ROTC programs. This year we awarded \$4,000 in scholarships at our dinner on June 12th celebrating the Army's 250th Birthday.

FAMILY MEMBER SUPPORT:

We support the Fisher House Foundation, building comfort homes near major military medical facilities, enabling family members of injured service members to stay nearby, free of charge, as their loved ones recover.

We co-sponsor our Annual Gingerbread Ball, which raises \$40-\$50K per year for the Fisher House Foundation. The Honorary Chair for this year's Ball on December 6th is USMC SSGT (Ret) Joey Jones, who is a contributor, anchor, and host at FOX NEWS.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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60 Community Partner Members / 1,768 Individual Members