



Board of County Commissioners

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Commissioner Director Announces

The 'Adopt-A-Veteran Headstone Program'

On October 23rd the County Commissioners and the non-profit, 'By Memorial Day,' hosted a Veteran Headstone Cleaning Event at the Prospect Hill Cemetery in Flemington and, along with more than twenty people from the community, spent the morning cleaning Veteran's headstones, Board of Commissioners Director Susan J. Soloway reported.

Soloway, the Board's Veterans liaison, said, "Mr. Trae Zipperer, the non-profit founder, introduced the residents who gathered to clean headstones to the Veteran whose headstone he was cleaning. This particular Veteran had a heroic tale at Peleliu, a terrible battle with heavy American casualties.

Listening to the tragic tale and the heavy losses that were incurred, the Veteran's loss became personal to all of us there. We weren't just cleaning headstones, we were taking care of the men and women who lost their lives for the nation."

The mission of 'By Memorial Day' is to clean every Veteran's headstone across the country. Recently, Director Soloway announced the "Adopt-A-Veteran Headstone Program," a program where residents can choose a Veteran headstone in a county cemetery, clean the headstone, and learn about the Veteran who is buried there.

"We have approximately 150 cemeteries in Hunterdon County, according to the county's Historical Society, and some of them are well taken care of, while others need more care. Working with our county's Veterans Services Officer, Rich Booth, we are compiling a list of all Veteran headstones in the county for residents to choose from.

Residents can choose one or several Veteran headstones, we just ask that a photo of the headstone that has been cleaned be sent to the county for documentation," Soloway explained.

Anyone interested in cleaning Veteran Headstones can contact the county's Public Information Officer, Ruthi Cass via email, rcass@co.hunterdon.nj.us or by phone, 908-788-1104.

There will be group Veteran Headstone cleaning events planned quarterly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for these events, please contact VSO Booth, rbooth@co.hunterdon.nj.us