

APPLAUSE

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NORTH JERSEY

■ The New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal was awarded to the following local residents — all combat veterans of various wars — at a ceremony at Paramus Park mall: Anthony Alfano, Cliffside Park; Carl Amos, Paterson; Bertram Brodt, Paramus; Gabriel Castellanos, Ridgefield Park; Vincent Dattoli, Angel Lopez, George Rogust, Edward Thompson and Joshua Urban, Hackensack; Vincent Delhey and Jose Mendaz, New Milford; Arthur Diago, East Rutherford; Francis Ferrer, Palisades Park; Eugene Iaconetti, Norman Liebowitz and Joseph Nygard, Teaneck; Turhan Ingram and James Montegari, Mahwah; Sammy Juliano, Lyndhurst; Robert Kopp, Washington Township; Donald Lapham Jr., Norwood; Eugene Little, Dumont; Robert Mader, Fair Lawn; Jerald Maksymowicz, Ridgewood; Nick Mascolo, Old Tappan; Edward Owen, Allendale; Raymond Reholz, Ho-Ho-Kus; Peter Schneider, Harrington Park; Robert Sellner, Saddle River; William Tjaden Jr., Oakland; and Joseph Wisneski, Little Ferry.

BERGEN COUNTY

■ Rochelle Park-based New Concepts for Living Inc. recognized some of its staff with special service awards. Edward Grande, its training and safety director, received a Special Service plaque recognizing his commitment to helping people with disabilities; Lana Nedlisky received the Administrative Support Person of the Year award; Maria Kaszonyi was named the Group Home Manager of the Year; and Hilary Tann received the Driver of the Year award.

PASSAIC COUNTY

■ The Passaic-Clifton chapter of UNICO honored two Clifton residences at its fourth annual Michael N. Corradino awards dinner. They are Dennis Benigno, founder of the Coalition for Brain Injury Research, and Ninetta Corradino, a local businesswoman who has donated to many worthwhile organizations. Proceeds from the event went to the Frederick M. Testa Scholarship Fund, which supports Clifton and Passaic high school scholarships.

BERGENFIELD

■ Robert Ritzler, a retired educator, has been named ESL Volunteer Tutor of the Month at the Bergenfield Public Library. He has been helping foreign-born residents learn English for 10 years.

CLIFTON

■ Councilman Peter Eagler has been selected as grand marshal for the 71st annual Pulaski Day parade in New York City. Eagler was awarded his sash of honor at the Polish Consulate in New York City in front of the parade committee and more than 150 leaders from Polish civic, religious, cultural and fraternal organizations throughout the tri-state area.

HAWTHORNE

■ The fire department has been awarded the Vermont Teddy Bear Co.'s "Big Hero, Little Hero" grant. Through this program, teddy bears are provided to children following a serious emergency such as a house fire. Hawthorne families have already received 60 of these specially designed bears, a value estimated at \$1,500.

PALISADES PARK

■ Dehlia Elsayed has received a \$25,000 Painters & Sculptors Grant from the non-profit Joan Mitchell Foundation. The program supports artists who are recognized for creating works of exceptional quality.

PATERSON

■ School 12 teacher Patricia Gordon; Burnie Bristow, a technology teacher at Panther Academy; and Dawn Uttel, a fourth-grade language arts teacher at School 12 have become nationally board certified teachers, a voluntary process which takes from one to three years to complete. The certification is sponsored by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Fewer than 150 teachers across the state have attained this national credential.

TOTOWA

■ The North Jersey Federal Credit Union distributed toys collected from its annual toy drive to the children at Paterson-based La Casa de Pedro Day Care Center and Eva's Village Family Shelter for Women and Children.

