



THE AMERICAN LEGION
HONOR ROLL

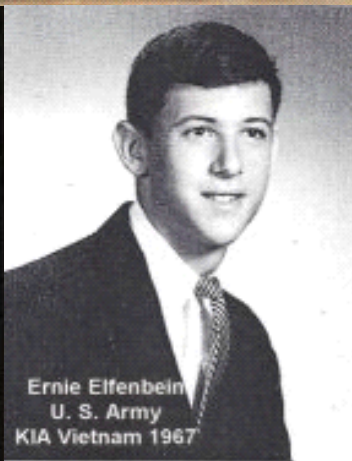
IN TIME OF NEED THESE HEROES PLEDGED THEIR LIVES
THEIR FORTUNES AND THEIR SACRED HONOR

Roster of Veterans



Thomas F. Robinson Sr U. S. Army WWII
My Dad served in the Army during WWII and was stationed in Germany. His rank was Master Sergeant. He was attached to the Execution Squad, specifically to the Hangman Division. He received coverage from Life Magazine while serving. Upon his return home, he spoke little of his time during the War.

Submitted by Thomas Robinson, Jr. Hillsdale, NJ



Ernie Elfenbein
U. S. Army
KIA Vietnam 1967

Ernie Jon Elfenbein U.S. Army Vietnam
He enlisted in the US Army in February 1967, and attained the rank of Corporal. He served in Vietnam with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He was a member of the Tiger Force, an elite corps. Corporal Elfenbein was killed in action on October 6, 1967 near Chou Lai, South Vietnam. Elfenbein was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, National Defense, Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign Medals. Ernie was 19 years old.

Submitted by American Legion Post 162

Raymond H. Jean U.S. Army Vietnam



He was drafted to serve in the Vietnam War and landed in country in April of 1967 and served until his discharge in July 1968. Ray was a combat engineer and later was moved to water purification. His rank was Spec 4 in 18th Brigade at Pleiku, Kon Tum and Dak To. His service in Vietnam ended with the Ameri-Cal division in Chu Lai.

Submitted by Ray Jean Hillsdale, NJ

Joseph J. McDougall U.S. Navy WWII



Joe Mac enlisted in April 1942. He served as a radioman on a sub tender. His initial tours were along the eastern coast and in time his subchaser moved into the South Pacific until the end of the war. Like many others who served in World War II, he was discharged in December 1945.

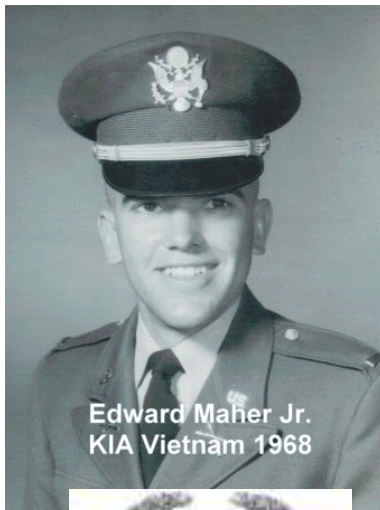
Submitted by Ray Jean Hillsdale, NJ

Douglas H. Jean U.S. Navy WWII



Doug served in the Caribbean and Pacific. His final posting was aboard the USS Lander, which carried landing craft and troops to many ports including Okinawa and Iwo Jima. This ship also participated in Operation Magic Carpet, the repatriation of troops back to the U.S. Doug was part of the N Division which handled the radio and radar on the Lander.

Submitted by Ray Jean Hillsdale, NJ



Edward Maher Jr U.S. Army Vietnam
Maher attended Officer's Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. He served with the 50th Infantry as a company commander at Fort Hood, TX. Maher had been in Vietnam for two months with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. 1ST LT Maher was killed in action on August 2, 1968, while on an amphibious combat mission in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. Maher was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Soldiers' Medal for Heroism, Purple Heart, National Defense, Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign Medals. Edward Maher was 21 years old.
Submitted by American Legion Post 162



George A. Poor Jr U.S. Army Vietnam
He enlisted in the US Army and attained the rank of Private First Class. In March 1967, he was sent to Vietnam as a paratrooper. His dream, however, was to become a Green Beret. He was told he would have to wait until after his 20th birthday. George was killed in action on June 22, 1967, at Dak To, Kontum Province, South Vietnam. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star (merit), National Defense, Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign medals. George Poor was 19 years old.
Submitted by American Legion Post 162



Peter Murner Jr. U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam
He enlisted in the Marine Corp shortly after college graduation and went on to attain the rank of 2nd Lieutenant at Quantico, VA. He was sent to Vietnam August 4, 1968 where he served with the 3RD Motor TRANS BN, 3rd MARDIV. On August 26, 1968, he was killed in action near Quang Tri, South Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign and RVN National Order 5th Class Military Medals. He is survived by his wife and daughter. Peter was 23 years old.
Submitted by American Legion Post 162



Elinor Auslander U.S. Army Nurse Corps WWII
Elinor graduated from the Lenox Hill Hospital Nursing program in 1944 and joined the Army in February 1945. She arrived in the China-Burma-India Theater on June 14th, and was assigned to the 234th General Hospital located in Chabua in the Assam Region of India. She served in General Nursing as well as specializing in surgical nursing and was in charge of a surgical ward. The hospital treated the wounded as well as the overwhelming number of malarial cases that were common in the region. Lt. Auslander left India in January 1946 and was discharged in April 1946.

Submitted by the O'Donovan Family Park Ridge, NJ



Albert Baker U. S. Army WWI

Bert was inducted into the Army at Hackensack on July 20, 1918. His Draft card lists him employed as a teamster. He lived on Cedar Street in Hillsdale with his parents and four siblings. He served with the 153rd Depot Brigade (Fort Dix). He contracted the Flu in the Pandemic of 1918. Bert died of influenza/pneumonia on Sept. 27, 1918. He was 26 years old.

Submitted by American Legion Post 162



Benjamin Klass Engineer WWI
Ben grew up in Hillsdale, son of John and Minnie Klass, with at least six children in the family. He was self-employed in vulcanizing tires. He departed from Hoboken Jan. 13, 1918, a civilian who went to France to help with bridge building. He accompanied older brother John Klass, who was in steel construction. He died of meningitis Jan. 25, 1918 · Buried at The Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial, Fère-en-Tardenois, France. He was 28 years old.

Submitted by American Legion Post 162

Aloysius J. Kwiecinski U.S. Army Air Force WWII



Al was based at a military secret base in the Mojave Desert, serving as a Radio Mechanic with the rank of Tech Sergeant from October 30, 1942 to January 16, 1946. Al checked, repaired, installed, and maintained airborne radio equipment and airborne radar units used for identification purposes.

Submitted by the Rattino Family Westwood, NJ

Robert J. Kwiecinski U.S. Air Force Cold War



Bob served from 1973 to 1989 acquiring the rank of Staff Sergeant. During his tenure, Bob was stationed in Germany with the First Communications Squadron, laying the cables for telephone communications. During his tenure, he was deployed to Sardinia, Africa, Senegal, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

Submitted by the Rattino Family Westwood, NJ

Dean D. Rattino Marines /Army Desert Storm



As a Marine, Dean graduated as Honor Man. He served as Military Police for 2 years at Camp Lejeune, and 2 years at Kaneohe Bay. Subsequently, he enlisted in the Army serving as Drill Instructor supporting Operation Desert Storm. Dean "The Marine" served 29 years on the Totowa Police Department.

Submitted by the Rattino Family Westwood, NJ



Joseph J. Rattino U.S. National Guard Korea

Joe served as a Sergeant in the US National Guard Infantry during the Korean War from June 22, 1948 to June 1, 1955. He was a Military Cook at Pine Camp of Fort Drum, New York.

Submitted by the Rattino Family Westwood, NJ



Robert Lezette U.S. Navy Korea

Bob joined the Navy at the age of 18. After Boot Camp at Great Lakes, in March 1949, he was assigned to the Carrier USS Midway (CVB41), where he crossed the Arctic Circle earning the title "Blue Nose" Sailor. His tour ended in March 1950, but he was recalled to active duty in April 1951. He served in Bayonne, NJ keeping aircraft Carriers FDR and Enterprise as well as Battleships North and South Carolina ready in the reserve fleet (mothball).

Submitted by Bob Lezette Hillsdale, NJ



William Lord U.S. Navy Korea

William Lord was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the United States Navy from March 7, 1949 to December 5, 1953. His rating at time of honorable discharge was SN (USNR-R). Most significant duty assignment was on the U.S.S. LSM 297. He received the National Defense Service Medal.



Submitted by Edna Lord Hillsdale, NJ



Robert Rekow U.S. Navy WW II

Robert was born in Tenafly, NJ and resided in River Vale with his wife and family after serving in the Navy. Robert joined the Navy in the fall of 1944, at the age of 17. After completing basic training, he served on the USS Macon, CA 132, a class heavy cruiser. He was a member of the original crew (plank owner) and was a proud Naval World War II veteran.

Submitted by Kathy Scordato Hillsdale, NJ



Craig E. Kohan U.S. Navy War on Terror

Craig was born and raised in Hillsdale, N.J. and is a 2002 graduate of Pascack Valley High School. He attended Sacred Heart University and graduated from Florida Atlantic University. He joined the Navy in 2006 and helped defend our country in special ops in the global war on terror. After 6 years of service, he went on to serve, protect and defend our country domestically.

Submitted by Roy and Lois Kohan Hillsdale, NJ



John J. Campbell U.S. Coast Guard WWII

John served in WWII and was awarded the Bronze Star for saving a man on his ship, the U.S.S. Theenim, during the battle of Okinawa. He was a modest man and only talked of this very special recognition in his 90's. He died in 2015 at the age of 95. To see his video interview go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-G5ZcaK13T4>.

Submitted by Jay Campbell Hillsdale, NJ

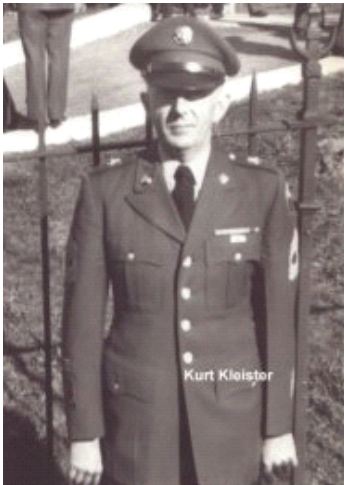
George A. Kritzler U.S. Army Korea



George was drafted into the Army October 6, 1952. He took Basic Infantry training at Fort Dix. And then shipped to Korea in May 1953. He served as a Combat Engineer with the 65th Combat Engineering Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant on Sept. 11 1953 as a Squad Leader. He served a total of 16 months in Korea.

Submitted by George Kritzler Hillsdale, NJ

Kurt E. Kleister U.S. Army WWII



Kurt served in the Army in and achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. After the war he joined Post 162 soon after moving to Hillsdale. He was very active in the Post and his wife Sylvia was also active as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. He marched in parades and worked to support the post until he died.

Submitted by Sylvia Kleister Hillsdale, NJ

George W. O'Keefe U.S. Army WWII



George was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry. He joined the Army in January 1941. He was killed in action at Monte Cassino in February 1944 during the Italian Campaign, one of the toughest fought campaigns of the war.

Submitted by Angelo Pascale Woodcliff Lake, NJ



Allan E. Atchison U.S. Army Air Corps WWII

My father enlisted in the Army Air Corps in April 1944 and was Honorably Discharged on October 29, 1945. He attained the rank of Corporal. He had Basic Training at Fort Dix and then trained as an airplane mechanic. He was in pilot training when the war ended. Allan was stationed at Keesler Field in Mississippi, Stuttgart Army Air Field in Arkansas and Tyndall Field in Florida. Allan had a long career as an educator and active volunteer in Hillsdale.

Submitted by Judith Atchison Hillsdale, NJ



Reginald Duncan U.S. Army WWII

Reggie joined the Army in 1942. He served in the Engineers and was part of the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach. He later became part of the 3rd Army under General Patton. He built bridges for Patton's tanks at the Battle of St. Lo. His Engineering unit was with Patton's rescue efforts and success at the Battle of the Bulge. Reggie was the bugler for the VFW Post #8946.

Submitted by George Kritzler Hillsdale, NJ



Francis (Frank) Patric Mahon U.S. Army WWII

Frank was a proud veteran of WWII, where he saw combat in 4 countries: France, Belgium, Germany and Austria. As an infantryman in the Army's 42nd Rainbow Division, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Much later he was one of the first soldiers to enter the Dachau concentration camp where the horrors he witnessed were carried with him for the rest of his life. Frank is a Past Commander of VFW Post #8964 In Woodcliff Lake and American Legion Post 153 In Park Ridge.

Submitted by George Kritzler Hillsdale, NJ

Herbert Heymann U.S. Air Force Vietnam



Bud was assigned to the 152 Combat Support Squadron in Suwon, Korea. He was a heavy duty vehicle operator. They were building a defensive perimeter wall around the base. He picked up the materials during the day and guarded it at night. Bud is the Sgt at Arms of Post 162.

Submitted by Bud Heymann Westwood, NJ

Charles F. Gerlinger U.S. Army WWII



Charles enlisted in the Army during WWII and served in the European Theatre. While there he received a promotion to 2nd Lieutenant. He was awarded the American Defense Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal and Good Conduct Ribbon. After the war, he used the GI Bill to become a Dentist. His practice was in the Pascack Valley.

Submitted by Marian Gerlinger Hillsdale, NJ

Frank A. Hill U.S. Army Air Corps WWII



Frank enlisted in 1939. He flew a total of 161 missions and is credited as the first American Pilot to shoot down a German fighter in combat. He was also the first ace in his 31st Fighter Group. He received the Distinguished Flying Cros, Air medal with 19 oak leave clusters, Silver Star, 5 AirForce Commendation Medals and the Congressional Gold Medal. He staying in the Air Force and retired as a Colonel.

Submitted by George Kritzler Hillsdale, NJ



Anthony Ferrigno U.S Army WWII

Anthony Ferrigno served in the Army from November 4, 1944 to August 9, 1946. He was stationed in Fort Dix, NJ and Hawaii as a Rifleman and Military Policeman. Anthony was awarded with the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

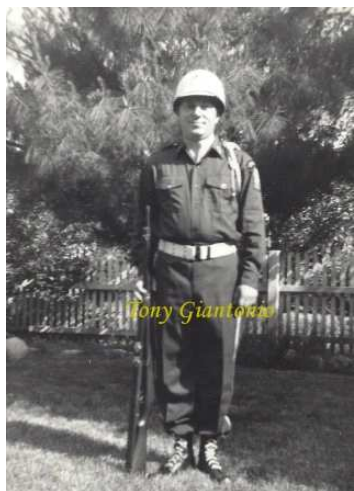
Submitted by the Rattino Family Westwood, NJ



Zoltan Horvath U.S. Army Vietnam

Zoltan Enlisted and served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1970 as a Military Policeman. He was stationed and served In Viet Nam through 1970. Zoltan served as Commander of Post 162 from 2007 -2012.

Submitted by Doug Frank Hillsdale, NJ



Anthony C. Giantonio Jr. U.S. Air Force Korea

Tony enlisted in the Air Force and served 4 years. He was assigned to the 506th Field Maintenance Sq., Strategic Air Command, at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma. He also served at Chanute AFB in Illinois, where he trained as a HydroMech. Tony earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Submitted by Angelina Giantonio Hillsdale, NJ



Charles Robert Vogt U.S. Navy Cold War

Charles Robert “Bib” Vogt served in the United States Navy Reserve from 1955 to 1963. He completed his service as a Radarman Second Class Petty Officer. He was assigned to the Reserve Crew of USS McClelland (DE-750). He successfully completed multiple reserve drills and annual active duty training every year of his enlistment.

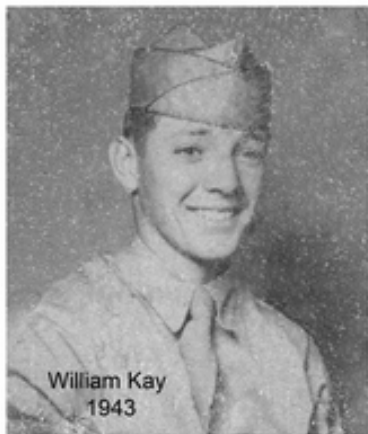
Submitted by Jim and Charlene Gerbig Hillsdale, NJ



James Gerbig U.S. Navy Desert Storm

A 1981 Graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Jim had five deployments, including as an Operations Officer on a Guided Missile Cruiser during Desert Storm. He also served on a deployed command staff and directed fleet operations for 135 surface ships, leading as many as 130 sailors in a wartime environment. He also served in Budget Planning under the Chief of Naval Personnel. His many awards include six Navy/Marine Corps Commendation medals.

Submitted by Jim and Charlene Gerbig Hillsdale, NJ



William Kay U.S. Army WWII

Bill was born in NJ and grew up in NYC. He entered the Army in 1943 after one year of college at Fordham. He trained for artillery at Forts Bragg and Livingston before shipping out to the Pacific. He was trained in artillery on both 105 and 155 Howitzers. After serving in New Guinea, his unit moved to Leyete and fought in the Philippines until the end of the war. He got home in November 1945. He completed college and had a 30 year career as a NYC teacher. See his interview at <https://youtu.be/1dqFlavchAs>.

Submitted by American Legion Post 162



Timothy C. Markantes U.S. Army WWII

Timothy C. Markantes was drafted into the Army in March of 1946. He served with the 2766th Engineers Base Photographic Mapping Company until April 1947. Accurate mapping is critical to military operations. By the end of the war, considerable effort was being applied to large scale mapping by stereo-photogrammetric methods

Submitted by Nick Markantes River Vale, NJ



John P. Sadlon U.S. Navy WWII

Jack enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17. He served on the USS Midway (CV41) aircraft carrier in the Aleutian Islands. He was promoted to Ship Fitter First Class Petty Officer. Jack served as the Service Officer of Post 162 and was the Grand Marshall of the Hillsdale Memorial Day Parade in 2013.

Submitted by the Sadlon Family



Michael DeJoseph U. S. Air Force Vietnam

Submitted by the DeJoseph Family Hillsdale, NJ

Joseph G. Mizzi U.S. Army Korea



Joseph was born in 1932. He served on Active Duty in Korea as a PMOS—Clerk Typist from 1952 to 1954. Joseph was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He then was assigned to the Emergency Reinforcement Individual Fill Pool out of Kearny, NJ. He was Honorably Discharged on October 31, 1960.

Marko Lovrich U.S. Army WWII



Born in Croatia, Marko came to the US in 1935. He was drafted into the Army in August 1942 and became a United States citizen at Camp Croft in S. Carolina. After training in the U.S., Hawaii and Australia, his unit went to New Guinea. They fought in the jungles against the Japanese for seven months and then moved to Leyte in the Philippines. After recovering from malaria he returned to combat where he was wounded through the neck fighting on Mindanao. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Medal, Good Conduct, Philippines Liberation Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart. He was discharged in February 1946, with the rank of SGT. Listen to his fascinating story of combat here:

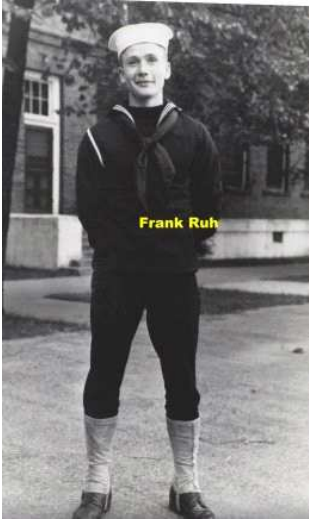
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZwucj2f2s8>
Submitted by Nadine Fionda Hillsdale, NJ

Bruno Henry DeSandre U.S. Army Air Corps WWII



B.H. DeSandre enlisted 1 July 1940 and served in the 562nd Bomb Squadron (H) 388th Bomb Group. He flew in many B17 missions, one was part of the top secret Aphrodite Project. He received several medals including the Air Medal, American Defense Medal with 2 Bronze Stars and American Service Medal. He was also an accomplished middleweight boxer. He was honorably discharged as Staff Sergeant in September 1945.

Submitted by Denise Winkler Hillsdale, NJ



Francis "Frank" Ruh U.S. Navy Korea

Frank served from Sept 12, 1947 to Sept 11, 1951. He was a Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer aboard the U.S.S. Massey (DD-778) a Sumner Class Destroyer. He received the Korean Service Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal. Frank was born July 12, 1929 and died October 10, 2018.

Submitted by the Winkler Family Hillsdale, NJ



Gabriel Mara U.S. Army Korea

Gabe was born on Patterson St. in Hillsdale and was drafted in 1951 while in his second year of college. After basic training at Ft. Dix, he auditioned and then attended band school. He was assigned to the HQ 45th Infantry Division band. His unit traveled by ship to Pusan, Korea. They played at official ceremonies and eventually worked with USO celebrities to entertain the troops. He served in Korea from April 1952 until May 1953. Gabe was released from active duty in 1953 as a Corporal. His father Pasquale was a founding member of Post 162. See his interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQSVl6onEK8>

Submitted by American Legion Post 162



Norman Illian U.S. Army Korea

Our Dad graduated from the Academy of Aeronautics located in Long Island, NY in 1950. After completing this degree, he was drafted in 1951 and proudly supported the war effort being stationed in Austria. He was Honorably Discharged as a Corporal in 1953.

Submitted by Atlas Mfg Solutions Hillsdale, NJ



Truman Flower U.S. Navy WWII

Truman grew up in Cliffside Park, NJ. He joined the Navy in June of 1943 and served in the Pacific with the Seabees (Navy Construction Battalion). He was a Machinists Mate Third Class Petty Officer. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, American Theater Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the WWII Victory Medal. He was discharged in December 1945.

Submitted by the Flower Family



Herbert Zahlmann U.S. Army Air Corps. WWII

Herbert enlisted in the Army Air Corps on May 8, 1943. He served in Airborne Intelligence and was stationed in France with the First Allied Airborne Division. He reached the rank of Technical Corporal. He was discharged in early 1946.

Submitted by Joan and Richard Cipullo Montvale



Edward P. Powers U.S. Navy Korea

Edward served from August 17, 1949 through July 7, 1953. He earned The Navy's National Defense Service medal, and good conduct medals for European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign and the Navy Occupational Service medal with Europe clasp. He served aboard the USS Robert L. Wilson DDE 847 where his primary duties were as damage control and fireman, where he received injuries for a Flash Fire Burn.

Submitted by Brian Powers Dumont NJ



Matthew Ramcalian U.S. Navy War on Terror

Matthew served as a Navy Corpsman. From 2011 to 2019. He has served in Afghanistan in support of our operations there.

Submitted by Chinta Ramcalian Rochelle Park, NJ



George E. Cartwright U.S. Army Vietnam

George began his military career in ROTC at Providence College. He was assigned to various stateside bases, and also served in Laos and the Philippines. His last assignment was at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, NY, where he was the Finance Officer for the post and attained the rank of Major. George resigned his commission in 1969 and became an officer at the Chase Bank Headquarters in NY. He and his wife became residents of Hillsdale in 1971. George died in 1976 at the age of 39 from cancer.

Submitted by Marie Cartwright Hillsdale, NJ