

Christine Hanlon, County Clerk Shaun Golden, County Sheriff Christopher Gramiccioni, County Prosecutor Rosemarie Peters, County Surrogate

NEWS RELEASE

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CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS KICK OFF FLASH AND FOOD DRIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IN SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS

Monmouth County: As many begin the holiday season by spending time with family, shopping and attending parties, Monmouth County Clerk Christine Hanlon, Sheriff Shaun Golden, Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni and Surrogate Rosemarie Peters want residents to spread some cheer to our troops overseas. As a result Monmouth County's four constitutional officers have kicked off a Flash and Food drive.

"Our military men and women who defend our country and sacrifice for our freedom every day deserve the utmost appreciation," said Clerk Christine Hanlon. "As a way of saying thank you, we will be collecting flash drives, as well as nonperishable foods, to send to those brave men and women overseas."

The five collection sites which will be accepting donations from Dec. 5 through Dec. 30 are as follows:

Monmouth County Connection, 3544 Highway 66 Neptune-Mon, Wed, Fri 10am to 6pm, Tues, Thurs 10am to 8pm & Sat. 9am to 1pm

Monmouth County Clerk's Office, 33 Mechanic Street, Freehold-Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, 2500 Kozloski Rd., Freehold–Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

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Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, 132 Jerseyville Ave, Freehold–Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

Hall of Records, 1 East Main St., Freehold-Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. military personnel are stationed in over 150 countries. There's an estimated 1.3 million military personnel worldwide.

"As a law enforcement agency, we show a strong commitment to our troops," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "It's important to remain appreciative and supportive of the men and women who sacrifice a lot to keep us safe. This small gesture can have a big impact on our troops and provide them with some holiday joy this season."

"Being a naval officer, I know firsthand what it's like to be deployed during the holidays," said Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni. "We need to honor those sacrifices the armed forces make and continue to support them through these types of efforts year round, to show them, they are not forgotten."

Once the items are collected, two organizations, "American Recreational Military Service – A.R.M.S" and "Operation Gratitude" will deliver them to the most needed areas.

"It's important to support charitable giving during the holidays and throughout the year," said Surrogate Rosemarie Peters. "Please make a donation at one of the collection sites in an effort to make the holidays special for our troops. Even a little goes a long way."

Some Suggested Items Include:

Flash Drives: A common request from the troops.

Non-Perishable Food (Particularly Microwaveable)

- Easy to Open Canned goods
- Pre-packaged Dinners
- Ready to Eat meals (Ravioli, Spaghetti-o's, Mac-n-cheese, etc)
- Cup-o-soup

- Popcorn
- Oatmeal

Additional Items:

- Lunch Tuna Salad quick meals
- Lunch chicken Salad quick meals
- Tuna pouches
- Granola Bars
- Pudding Cups
- Fruit Snacks
- Small Cookie Packs
- Small Cracker Packs
- Small and Large Bottles of Water
- Juice Boxes/Bags
- Trail Mix
- Snack Crackers (Orange Peanut Butter Crackers or Orange Cheese Crackers)
- Candy
- Dried Fruit
- Raisins
- Beef Jerky
- Slim Fast like shakes
- Crystal light or other kool aid or tea like packets or Gatorade packets
- Emer-gen-c Packets

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