

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE def# 11/7/2014
**VETERANS ENCOURAGED TO RECORD MILITARY DISCHARGE PAPERS;
RECEIVE FREE PHOTO REGISTRATION CARD FROM COUNTY CLERK**

TOMS RIVER – Veterans who record their military discharge papers (Form DD-214) with the Ocean County Clerk’s Office can also receive a free photo identification card.

“As we remember all of our veterans during the month of November and we recognize the more than 60,000 veterans calling Ocean County home, I want to encourage each of them to use this service,” said Ocean County Clerk Scott Colabella.

Colabella announced that starting Nov. 14, the service also will be available at the County Connection at the Ocean County Mall, here.

“Any Ocean County veteran may bring their original DD-214 discharge papers to any of the three locations of the Ocean County Clerk’s Office,” Colabella said.

The County Clerk’s offices are located at the Ocean County Courthouse, 118 Washington Street, here, the County Connection located at the Ocean County Mall at 1201 Hooper Avenue, here, or the Ocean County Southern Service Center, 179 South Main Street, Manahawkin.

The Courthouse and Southern Service Center locations are open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

“The County Connection is open 7 days a week during regular mall hours,” noted Freeholder John P. Kelly, who serves as liaison to the County Connection. “This is a convenient location for our veterans to access and with the longer hours it is helpful to all of our residents interested in the services offered by many levels of government.”

The Clerk’s Office staff will record the discharge papers and process a photo registration card for the veteran to verify that their original DD-214 has been recorded, Colabella said.

The Veterans Identification Card includes the name and address of the veteran along with a photo as well as the branch of the armed forces in which the veteran served in addition to listing the book and page and date the discharge papers were recorded. The service is free.

“Copies of the DD-214 discharge papers are needed for numerous reasons,” Colabella said.

Veterans and their families often need proof of discharge for: dependents of deceased veterans attending high school, college or technical school, obtaining funeral benefits, obtaining benefits from Veteran's Services, obtaining property tax exemption, Government employment, Civilian employers doing government work, job placement, veteran's social clubs and obtaining a peddler's license.

“As we honor the brave men and women who have served our nation, we want to remind the thousands of veterans who call Ocean County home about this service,” Colabella said.

(add one)

“Recording veterans discharge papers (Form DD-214) with the County Clerk's Office ensures that a true copy of the original document may always be obtained in the event that the original is lost or destroyed,” said Freeholder Gerry P. Little who also serves as liaison to the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau.

Veterans may call the County Clerk's Office at (732) 929-2018 or go online at www.oceancountyclerk.com for additional information.

“To date, we have registered over 10,000 DD-214 papers and provided free photo cards for our veterans,” Colabella said. “It's a privilege to be able to serve our veterans this way.”