

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WOODBINE AMERICAN LEGION POST 298 TO HOST KICK OFF OF COMMUNITY AND VETERAN SERVICE CAMPAIGN**

**Woodbine**—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce that Officers and staff members of the Indianapolis-based American Legion National Headquarters and Trenton-based State Headquarters will be in Woodbine June 5<sup>th</sup> until June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 along with members of American Legion Post 298 to kick off their community and veteran service campaign.

All wartime veterans in this area are invited to attend a three-day open house hosted by Woodbine Post 298 on June 5<sup>th</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup> at the post home located at 515 Washington Avenue, Woodbine, from Noon to 4 pm on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>; from 10 am to 5 pm on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>; and from Noon to 6 pm on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

A Service Officer will also be available for all area veterans with claims or other veteran-related questions on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the same location from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Wartime veterans of the Woodbine and Cape May County area will now have a new outlet through which to serve the community. The American Legion, the nation's largest veteran's organization, is inviting all wartime era veterans in the area to join them in providing a service to the community and veterans of this area.

In keeping with the over 90-year tradition of The American Legion, the Woodbine American Legion Post 298 will focus on community service and assistance to veterans. The scope and nature of the post's community service, as well as other posts in Cape May County, will be determined by its members and inputs from local civic and community officials.

"I encourage all veterans to become involved with this initiative and to take advantage of this service," added Mayor Pikolycky. "And I thank National and State Headquarters of the American Legion for this effort and for choosing Woodbine as its Open House kick-off site. Woodbine had many who proudly volunteered to serve in World War II. Those who returned were responsible for establishing Woodbine's Hornstein-Switka-Oxley Post 298."

“Service! That’s what The American Legion is all about,” said Robert Looby, Commander of The American Legion for the Department of New Jersey. “We exist to help each and every veteran, their families and the communities they live in. The Cape May County and Woodbine area is an ideal place to strengthen partnerships between the veterans and the community. The people here care about their community and practice good citizenship every day. Now, wartime veterans have a special place from which they can make a difference.”

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans’ benefits, children & youth, patriotic American values, a strong national defense and quality-of-life issues for those serving in today’s armed forces.

The organization, which spearheaded the original GI Bill, has been advocating reform of the veteran’s health care system under its GI Bill of Health. Creation of the federal forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as the agency’s ascent to cabinet-level status is due in part to The American Legion’s advocacy. The American Legion was also instrumental in the establishment of the Veterans Home Loan, veterans hiring preference and just compensation to veterans suffering from illnesses related to their military service, including those whose ailments stem from exposure to Agent Orange and mysterious Persian Gulf origins.

Equally aggressive are The American Legion’s efforts to instill values in young people through numerous programs, including American Legion Boys State, American Legion Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, the National High School Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball, Teenage Suicide Prevention, Child Health and a McGruff Safe Kids Program. The American Legion has supported Scouting since 1919. Many American Legion posts also support Junior ROTC high school units, fund-raising for handicapped children, the Children’s Miracle Network and partnerships with other nonprofit organizations such as Special Olympics.

For additional information please contact Jim Scanlon, Cape May County Membership Chairman at: 609-398-6909 or [sajobsjds@aol.com](mailto:sajobsjds@aol.com) or Woodbine Post 298 Commander Dave Zweigenbaum at: 609-861-2456 or [zweigenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:zweigenbaum@verizon.net).