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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mercer County Clerk Announces Benefits of having a Veteran ID Card**

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello reminds US Veterans that now is the time to obtain a County ID card because Veteran ID cards are always available **Free** to US Veterans during the following period, **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Week** (December 4 – December 15), in honor and acknowledgement for their service to the United States of America.

Sollami Covello also states that there are several benefits of having Veteran status, including a new tax deduction for all US Veterans who served and were honorably discharged.

This is one of the many benefits for the ID cards which indicate that a Veteran was honorably discharged. Also, the ID cards that indicate a Veteran's status have additional benefits as many local retailers now offer discounts to Veterans. A new and updated 2018 booklet of participating vendors and retailers in Mercer can be obtained by anyone who visits to receive their Vet ID card.

“If a copy of a Veteran's discharge papers is needed in the future, the Veteran, an immediate family member or a legally recognized representative of their estate, may obtain one with proper identification, which means there is no down-side for Veterans to file their papers now. I am particularly sensitive to the need to record such papers since the County Clerk's office maintains and preserves official documents and records for Mercer County,” noted Sollami Covello. “Additionally, the New Jersey Department of the Treasury now offers an Income Tax Exemption for Veterans with proof of their DD-214, further demonstrating the need for Veterans to have easy access to these documents.”

The requirements for a Mercer County ID card are:

- Must be a Mercer County resident for at least 6 months.
- Must produce the following:
  - A valid birth certificate with a raised seal, a United State's Passport, or a naturalization certificate.

- A valid NJ Motor Vehicle License or voter registration card or, lease agreement.
- To have their US military Veteran status designated on the ID card, Veterans must also produce (or have registered) their DD-214 discharge papers with the County Clerk's Office.

Moreover, the recording of a Veteran's DD-214 form is free of charge to all honorably discharged Mercer County Veterans.

A Certificate of Release - Discharge from Active Duty, or DD 214 Form for short, is generally issued when a service member is honorably discharged from active military duty. The document contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in Veterans' organizations.

Veterans can receive their photo ID card by visiting the Mercer County Clerk's Office located at 240 W State Street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, in Trenton. The Clerk's Office is open from Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

For further information on how to obtain a Mercer County photo identification card, please call 609-278-7108 or visit [www.mercercounty.org](http://www.mercercounty.org). For more information on the tax exemption, please either go to a professional tax consultant or go to the Treasury Department's website at [www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/newexemptionveterans.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/newexemptionveterans.shtml).

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