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thousands of animals each year, but its primary mission is to prevent cruelty before it occurs. More information is available at [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org).

"Representative LoBiondo has exhibited outstanding leadership on animal welfare legislation," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of HSUS. "We are very grateful for his support in creating a more humane world."

In total, 146 legislators, six New Jersey Representatives as well as its two Senators, received awards for their work in 2012. The award was presented to LoBiondo and other recipients at a recent ceremony at the Capitol.



Antiques Center are seen on surveillance

## s in jewelry theft

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neck-length auburn/red hair.  
Anyone who is able to confirm the suspects' identity is asked to call the Galloway Township Police Department at (609) 652-3705, ext. 318. Any business owners having similar incidents of theft should contact their local police department.

## dical marijuana Atlantic County

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second permit will be needed before Compassionate Care can open.

State health officials said on June 6 about 1,000 patients are now registered to receive medical marijuana treatment.

New Jersey legalized medical marijuana in



Pictured at VetRock 2013 on June 1 at Atlantic City's Bader Field are Wounded Warrior Alumnus/Peer Mentor Edward Afanador (from left); Lt. Colonel Oliver North, combat decorated U.S. Marine; NJ Director of Employer Outreach Director for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Donna Clementoni; Atlantic County Sheriff Frank X. Balles, Atlantic County Veterans Advocate; and four-time Purple Heart recipient Marco Polo Smigliani. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Veteran advocates acknowledge Oliver North's patriotic support

ATLANTIC CITY — An outdoor festival to provide Vietnam-era veterans the "welcome home they never received" was held on June 1 at Atlantic City's Bader Field, courtesy of veteran advocate and radio host, Mike Merlino and Wisner Charitable Enterprises.

VetRock 2013, an all-day celebration of heroes, was hosted by actor/singer/musician Joe Piscopo and featured Vietnam-era music by live bands, such as Mytch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels, Mark Farmer (former lead vocalist for Grand Funk Railroad), The Soul Survivors, Buckingham, the Trammps and local favorites, Mays Landing-based Seven Stone.

A patriotic address was delivered by Lt. Col. Oliver North, who is a combat decorated U.S. Marine, a No. 1 bestselling author, syndicated columnist and the host of "War Stories" on Fox News Channel. His awards for service in combat include the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for valor and two Purple Hearts for wounds in action.

"Events like this should be happening all over America," North said. "Four decades ago we forgot an important lesson a nation without heroes is doomed."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense, mostly volunteer organization that seeks to create a culture where all American employers value the military service and sacrifice of their employers, presented the former Marine colonel with a Seven Seals Award to honor him for his constant commitment to the

### IF INTERESTED

Employers and veterans interested in participating in the Veterans' Speed Career Networking Event can register at [www.judgevipcareer.com](http://www.judgevipcareer.com).

Tickets for the Soul game are available by calling (888) 789-SOUL. All active duty military and veterans are eligible for \$5 off the ticket price.

men and women who wear the uniform currently less than one percent of American citizens.

This award, depicting the heraldry of the seven seals that ESGR serves, is presented to an individual, company or organization that shows extreme patriotism and support toward the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve and America's military forces in general.

ESGR came into existence in 1972 when America went to an all-volunteer force. It recognized a need to get the message of employer support to first-line supervisors, local public employers at large and small businesses.

North used the opportunity to continue to advocate for veterans, with a firm message that America needs to employ our heroes.

"They have the characteristics of courage, integrity, tenacity, commitment and accountability," he said. "If you find a skillset needed to succeed in business, you will find a parallel in an MOS (Military Occupation Specialty)."

North added that we cannot fail to employ those who put themselves

in harm's way to protect our freedom and liberties.

Seven Seals Award presenter, Donna Clementoni, who volunteers with ESGR as the New Jersey director of employer outreach, also is helping to organize a Military Appreciation Night for June 22 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. In a partnership with the Philadelphia Soul of the Area Football League and Judge VIP (Veterans in Professional) Careers, their battle plan is clear find jobs for veterans.

Prior to the 6:05 p.m. Philadelphia Soul vs. Iowa Barnstormers match-up, Judge VIP Careers will host a veterans Speed Career Networking Event exclusively for transitioning military service members, wounded warriors, veterans and military spouses from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

An impressive list of employers who recognize the value these well-trained, disciplined leaders bring to the civilian workforce includes Subaru of America, Comcast, Jacobs Engineering and Virtua Health Systems.

A special Army Veterans vs. Navy Arena Football Game will follow the Philadelphia Soul game. The Navy veterans are finalizing a roster that includes former Naval Academy standouts, such as college football quarterback Lt. Ricky Dobbs; former Academy kicker Capt. Frank Schenk; former wide receiver Lt. j.g. Tyree Barnes; former defensive end Ensign Jabaree Tuani; and three of the four Person brothers, three of whom played football for Navy, including record holder, Andy Person.