



**MOUNT OLIVE TWP.** – In early 1941, the U.S. had not yet joined World War II while Adolph Hitler was laying the foundations for what he planned to be the “final solution” extermination of the Jews.

Eleven years earlier, a young Jewish boy, Herman Rosenberg, bar mitzvahed in Morristown. A former Boy Scout, Rosenberg was 24 and selling coal for the local coal yard in February 1941. It was 11 months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, when he decided to join the Army.

Rosenberg, 99, was among 10 veterans honored by the Morris County Freeholders in a ceremony on May 25 at the county courthouse in Morristown. The honored veterans served in military conflicts from World War II and Korea to Vietnam and Afghanistan.

Born in 1917, Rosenberg, has lived much of his life in Flanders. He served five years during the war, entering the Army as a private and attaining the rank of captain. He served in the Tank Sector of the Armored Corps, and was deployed in the Philippines.

He is the oldest surviving member of the Drew University Class of 1937, where he was an economics major. After the military, he worked for 52 years as an investor with the firm I.D.S.

Rosenberg's wife, Jessie, and daughter, Gina, died previously. Another son, Mark and his wife, Susan, live in Libertyville, Ill.

In addition to Rosenberg, other veterans from Flanders receiving the Distinguished Service medal included Mildred (Midge) Grant, Army, 1967-70, and her husband, Robert Grant Jr., Army, 1967-70; and Juan Guerra-Cruz, Army, Korean War, 1953-56.

Other honorees were James Cavanaugh, Morris Township, Army National Guard

1964-70; Scott Fleming, Florham Park, Marine Corps Reserve, 1986-94; Alan Frenzel, Morristown, Army National Guard, 1973-86; Arthur Arno Frenzel, Morristown, Army National Guard, 1947-89; Phillip Gaffney, Morristown, Navy, 1967-70; Arthur Giordano, Pompton Plains, Army, 1953-56.

## Pause To Honor

"When we spend time this Memorial Day weekend with our friends and families, enjoying the fun of a holiday weekend, please take a moment to pause and remember that we are only able to do so because of their sacrifice. For this we can never thank them enough," said Freeholder Director Kathy DeFillippo.

Lt. Col. Edward C. Croot, who was raised in Long Valley, was the keynote speaker. He is a battalion commander of the Army Mid-Atlantic Recruiting Battalion, and a veteran of conflicts in Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan-Pakistan, Yemen, Zambia, and special terrorism advisor to the U.S. Ambassador in Bangladesh.

"Every person being honored today, and every veteran in this audience deserves our support and respect," said Croot. "They are special people who have sacrificed so much for our country."

Croot was born in West Orange and moved with his family to Long Valley when he was 7. He graduated from West Morris Central High School and lives Naval Air Engineering Station in Lakehurst.

Croot said that as an Army Reservist, he learned that a West Morris Central classmate, Army Spc. James "Jamie" Smith, an Army Ranger, had been killed in Somalia on Oct. 3, 1993. The death of his 21-year-old classmate led Croot to sign up for training as an Army Airborne Ranger.

Croot was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1995 and was assigned in 1997 to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment in Germany. As a Rifle Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Brigade Assistant Operations Officer he was subsequently deployed in Bosnia, Macedonia, and Kosovo.

From 2002-06 he served as a detachment commander, battalion assistant and headquarters support company commander during the invasion of Iraq, two combat tours in Afghanistan, an operational tour in the U.S. Embassy in Yemen, and a Joint Combined Exercise for Training in Zambia.

He was again assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 2009-11 and served as company commander for two combat tours in Afghanistan. From 2012-13, Croot served as the Pacific Command's Counter-Terrorism Advisor to the Ambassador in the U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh.

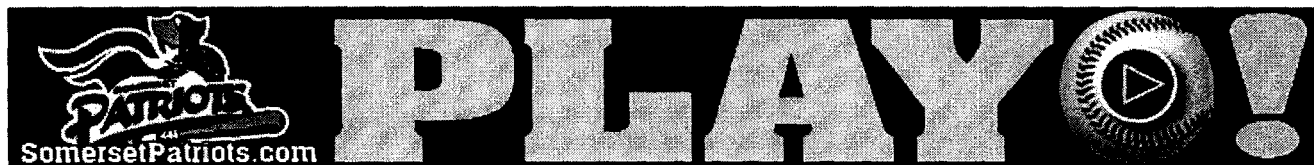
His many decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Joint Service Achievement Medal.

The ceremony featured the Marine Corps Color Guard, Golf Co, 2nd Battalion, 25th Regiment from Picatinny Arsenal.

The county's Distinguished Service Medal features the county seal encircled with the words, "Morris County Distinguished Military Service," on the front. An outline of the county and the American flag is on the back of the medal, along with the words, "Morris County Freeholders Military Commemorative."

Each medal's striped ribbon is the color of the specific conflict during which the veteran served.

Since the freeholders began the program in 2000, nearly 10,000 medals have been presented to veterans or to their family members.



# 99-year-old Flanders World War II vet given Morris County's highest honor

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