

Marine Corporal Neil Rigney of Toms River Recieve's a Warm Welcome Home from Residents at The Pines at Whiting



Corp. Neil Rigney with Manchester Mayor Michael Fressola and Melissa Clark, Director of Enrichment at The Pine at Whiting.

by Jo Ann La Russo

The month of May is "National Military Appreciation Month." Residents of The Pines at Whiting celebrated it last week by welcoming Corporal Neil Rigney, a Toms River native and 2005 graduate of Toms River High School East, who just returned home from serving our country in the U.S. Marines Corp.

Residents at The Pines in Whiting, located at 509 Rt.530, held a reception where Manchester Township Mayor Michael Fressola presented Rigney with a proclamation. Corporal Rigney, and The Pines residents have been corresponding since his deployment in 2009.

"When residents at The Pines wanted to help the military in some way to say thank you and to give back, a group

actually went for training with The Red Cross to volunteer to serve breakfast to men and women soldiers before they are deployed overseas. Unfortunately, the Red Cross wanted only one volunteer at a time and the Pines residents wanted to pitch in as a community," said Melissa Clark, Director of Enrichment at The Pines.

Clark said that she inquired to see if anyone knew a local person who was serving our country overseas and she was introduced to Corporal Rigney before he was deployed in May 2009.

The soldier was invited to The Pines to meet residents and was sent off with a gift phone card that he could use to call home with and a poster signed by staff and residents wishing him well.

"We sent Neil cards, letters and

care packages throughout his deployment in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait and he wrote beautiful letters back to our residents while he was away."

Rigney attended local schools and graduated HS East in the top 100 of his class. He excelled in power lifting during his high school years and won several titles throughout the northeast. He also played in Pop Warner Football and Toms River Youth Basketball.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 2005 and is ranked as a Corporal. He served in Iraq and Kuwait with a solo mission to Afghanistan. During his recent deployment he was instrumental in closing down bases and getting cargo

See, MARINE, Page 2

Monsignor Donovan Senior Named Research Fellow

Toms River – Monsignor Research Fellows Program Donovan High School senior Franklin Thelmo of Toms River has been selected as one of five participants in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Research Fellows Program at Saint Joseph's University.

As a HHMI Research Fellow, Thelmo will be participating in faculty-mentored research as part of the University's Summer Scholars Program for four weeks beginning on July 7, 2010.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)

Research Fellows Program is a residential science pre-college program funded through a grant from the nation's largest supporter of science education. Thelmo will be engaged in research in the fields of mathematics or natural sciences.

As a HHMI Research Fellow, Thelmo, who will be attending Saint Joseph's University in the fall, will have the opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty mentor, as well as a Saint Joseph's University student Summer Scholar, and possibly be involved in future Summer Scholar research projects.



Congressman Adler Applauds Police, Local Citizen that Helped Avoid Potential Terrorist Attack in New York City

Bomb scare reminds New Jersey residents to stay vigilant

Toms River, NJ - Congressman John Adler, who represents families that commute to metropolitan New York and Philadelphia, today applauded a New York City-based street vendor and the City's Police Department for helping avoid a potential catastrophe in Times Square. Late last night, police responded to a street vendor's tip of a suspicious vehicle emitting smoke. The vehicle was found to contain explosives and an apparent detonating device. Thankfully, the vehicle was disarmed and taken away with no injuries. "A deep debt of gratitude goes to a vigilant citizen and our brave first responders," Congressman John Adler

said. "By staying alert, local families did not suffer injury or harm. We continue to live in a dangerous world and we must continue to do all we can to aid our local first responders against terroristic threats."

Congressman Adler has been a strong proponent of increasing homeland security and first responder funding. He supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the 2010 Department of Homeland Security budget, which provided significant, increases in funding for local police, firefighters, border protection and homeland security grants.