

VET DRAWS ON LINE LIFE EXPERIENCES DURING VA VOLUNTEERING WORK

Plays in Tuesday Morning League



Nick Starace building model ship.

Short Hills resident Nicholas Starace II shares a common bond with the war veterans he works with each week at the VA Hospital East Orange Campus.

Starace, like them, is a veteran too, and when he visits the hospital each Wednesday and some Fridays he shares stories with the veterans about his near-death experiences, dealing with death, disease, family troubles, and fighting on the front lines.

The patients have different backgrounds ranging from WWII and the Korean War to the War in Iraq. Vietnam War veterans make up the largest population at the hospital, said Starace.

"I tell them I'm a veteran and we immediately bond," said Starace, who served on a US Navy 7th Fleet oiler in Southeast Asia after graduating from the US Merchant Marine Academy in 1957.

Sharing stories about his life is not only something Starace does verbally at the East Orange VA Hospital. In 2011 he published an autobiography, "White Sails Became Me: Memoirs of a Seafaring Heritage," in which he discusses his family life which he said was filled with extraordinary highs and lows.

When not volunteering at the East Orange VA Hospital, Starace, who formerly worked as the vice president in charge of Exxon's worldwide ship construction program, builds model ships in his spare time. Several of these ships are on display in glass cases on the first floor and in the basement of Starace's colonial split-level home. Some of these ships include a static display model of the USS New Jersey and a remote-control operated model of a Mississippi River sternwheeler.

"Every model ship I build reflects a piece of American maritime heritage," he noted.

Starace is a member of the Ship Model Society which holds its meetings in the Millburn Free Public Library.

He said that ship modeling and giving back to his country through serving in the Navy and volunteering at the VA Hospital East Orange Campus is part of his legacy. He discusses what his legacy means to him in his book.

"Life's greatest gift is to give," Starace said. "I've had an adventurous life. There have been hardships and adventures," he noted.

Notable Quotables

"The baseball mania has run its course. It has no future as a professional endeavor"
—Cincinnati Gazette editorial, 1879

"Little League baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets."
—Yogi Berra

NAMI CONSTRUCTION WINS SSUSA NORTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIP Veteran Tournament Team Wins Again

The Nami Construction Company from Ocean County won the 2011 SSUSA Northeast Championship in Cape May last September. The "Hard Hatters" beat the New York Statesmen in the title game 5-4. Nami Construction had competed in 8 Championship.

Tournament in 2011, and finished 1st six times. They placed second in the Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida and third in the TOC Winter/Nationals in Ft. Myers, Florida.



Standing L-R: Jim Harris, Pete Rendina, Ben Ellis, Dick Cero, Bill Vanderwende, Howard McNichols, Bob Smith, Jim Collins & Karl Horst. Kneeling L-R: Clyde Gossett, John King, Bob Nami, Ed Poliski & Jerry Elringham

Notable Quotables

"A hot dog at the game beats roast beef at the Ritz." —Humphrey Bogart

"I watch a lot of baseball on radio."
—Gerald Ford

NJSSA Website

<http://njsseniorsoftball.com> or <http://njssa.us>

can be accessed from your favorite web browser and either address will bring you to the official website. Site selections are located along the left hand column. You may select any of the links to see what information is contained in each category. For example: select Leagues, select your county such as Union County and view the desired information. The selections are arranged with the most likely accessed appearing from top to bottom. Each county is setup differently depending on league organization and information maintained. Every player should view the website on a regular basis to get the latest schedule, standings and results for their league.

The past few newsletters contained questions and answers to both ASA and SSUSA rules. This year we are highlighting SSUSA rules since these are the rules that will be used in the NJSSA Tournaments in 2012. In some cases NJSSA has modified SSUSA rules and will indicate where the local rule will prevail. These rules are posted on our website.

Use the Locations link to find field locations and directions. It would be great to have an individual from each county maintain and format their information for me so I can post it. Suggestions on the website can be sent to: njssa@hotmail.com.

Have a safe and enjoyable softball season!

Bobby Lorincz

Let's hear from you...

Do you have an interesting story or an experience that you would like to share with us? Something unusual or unique that happened in your life.

A story we could use for our "DidYou Know?" column (see page 5.) e-mail to :

howiemarlin@live.com