

## **Hunterdon Commissioners Join Community Leaders In Welcoming Operation Jersey Cares To Raritan Township**

Hunterdon County Commissioner Director John E. Lanza and Commissioner Susan J. Soloway participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for Operation Jersey Cares on Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the organization's new location on Commerce Street in Flemington, as the group continues its mission of sending care packages to the men and women currently serving in the military.

"Your mission is near and dear to my heart," Director Lanza told the crowd of over sixty volunteers and county residents in attendance to support Jersey Cares at the ceremony.

Lanza, the son-in-law of a Combat Veteran who served in Operation Desert Storm, continued, "The people who have put their lives on the line for America need some selflessness themselves. We're so grateful to have you amongst us in our county and in the community doing what you are doing for them."

Operation Jersey Cares had been in Raritan, Somerset County, until Tropical Storm Ida flooded the organization's headquarters last fall. Raritan Township Committeeman Gary Hazard, who is a volunteer with the Operation, assisted the organization's relocation to Hunterdon County.

Commissioner Soloway, the Board's Veterans liaison, said, "This organization is like a full-time job for many dedicated volunteers and the commitment shown by all involved is truly inspiring. Preparing a care package to send overseas is truly an art-form, and it's costly. Donations of money and time are needed for this worthy cause."

To date, Operation Jersey Cares has donated over 1.3 million pounds of food and personal care products to military service members overseas. In addition to supporting our nation's military, Jersey Cares also supports Veterans transitioning to civilian life, those in medical facilities with long-term care and women's veterans support organizations.

If you would like to get involved, please visit <https://operationjerseycares.org/> or call 908-248-4630.