# **Community EVENTS**

## Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom



This year marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> Rolling Thunder Ride for freedom. The ride ended at the Memorial with a touching ceremony ensuring that those still considered POWs and those missing in action are remembered.

## New Jersey Run for the Fallen

Each September, NJ Run for the Fallen ends their three day run at the New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument on our campus. In an apolitical reflection of remembrance, a team of military runners from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurts and other locations across the U.S. come together to embark on a 190+ mile journey from Cape May to Holmdel, to honor every New Jersey service member killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and other conflicts. Each mile is dedicated to a fallen NJ Hero and their Gold Star Family with the goal of creating a 190+ memorial trail through New Jersey.

## **Poppy Project**

Jennifer LaScala, ceramics visual arts teacher at Sayreville War Memorial High School in Parlin, NJ had her students create ceramic poppy flowers to honor our Veterans. She reached out to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation to install the flowers on the Memorial grounds for Memorial Day, in a space where they would be appreciated and would honor the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Ms. LaScala's students created nearly 200 ceramic poppies that sit at the base of the armed forces flags at the Memorial's outer wall. Sayreville is joined by the art teachers of Northern Burlington County Regional High School, Burlington High School, New Brunswick High School, and Middlesex High School, placing about 320 poppies on the site for Memorial Day.

### **Wreaths Across America**

In December we were once again honored by a visit from the Wreaths Across America Caravan. During a ceremony that honored New Jersey's Gold Star Families and the 1,563 memorialized on our Wall, the organization made sure that these individuals and their families will not be forgotten. During the ceremony, 366 wreaths were laid at our Memorial, one for each panel of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial.

