

Union Musicians Honor the Fallen



Six volunteers from Local 336 (Burlington, NJ) helped honor a fallen Lumberton Township soldier. The musicians were asked to perform at a Veteran's Day ceremony honoring Sgt. Bryan L. Freeman, where a memorial park was dedicated in his name. Freeman enlisted in the army in 1993, and earned a Purple Heart and a Good Conduct Medal before his discharge in 1997. He served in the Army Reserve as a civil-affairs specialist and his unit was sent to Iraq in September 2003. The 31-year-old was killed in 2004 by a sniper. "The local heard that the family really wanted music at the ceremony, but they couldn't get a band," said Local 336 President Robert J. Bell, "so we supplied them with some musicians." Despite the biting cold, the musicians showed up and paid proper tribute. "They were happy to help out," Bell said. (L to R) Tony Surrency; Joe Panella, Sal Ciccone, Local 336 vice president; James Potter, Local 336 secretary; Tom McAnally; Bob Bell; Mike McAnally, Local 336 executive board member; Debra Knisely; Howard Schenck; and Orlando Rainey. The ceremony drew a crowd of about 200 residents, friends of the Freeman family, and dignitaries.

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