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CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

MARY PAT CHRISTIE
FIRST LADY

December 15, 2011

To Our Service Men and Women,

Season's Greetings from New Jersey!

I had the pleasure of spending time today with Rod Hirsch and the volunteer staff at Operation Shoebox New Jersey at their location in Hillsborough, putting this care package together to send to you. We hope this package brings a little light and love to you this Holiday Season.

Last December, I started a non-profit foundation called New Jersey Heroes. Our mission is to recognize, celebrate, and promote the Heroes of New Jersey who inspire fellow New Jerseyans to give back to their community. Today, I am naming Rod Hirsch our December New Jersey Hero for the wonderful work he does at Operation Shoebox. Rod has sent more than 50,000 care packages to our serving military since Operation Shoebox NJ began in 2005. The simple gesture of a care package can touch a service member who is far away from family and friends. I admire Rod so much for recognizing a need, taking action and making a difference in the lives of our military personnel every day. It is an honor to add him to my team of New Jersey Heroes. I know his efforts help illustrate and convey how much pride your country and fellow citizens have in you.

Governor Christie joins me in thanking you all for your continuing service to our country. We are grateful for the commitment and dedication you show each and every day. You are an inspiration and our real heroes. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Pat Christie".

Mary Pat Christie
First Lady