

# Gen. Peter Pace donates military uniform to library in Teaneck

**Megan Burrow** NorthJersey.com  
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Teaneck welcomed home Gen. Peter Pace on Sunday when the retired four-star Marine Corps general visited the township to donate his uniform to the library.

Pace, who was raised in Teaneck and graduated from Teaneck High School in 1963, served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President George W. Bush. In 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor a president can bestow.

"To be here today in my hometown, with my brother, my classmates, to know that you all believe that one of the sons of Teaneck is worthy of having that uniform hang here in this town, is gratifying for sure, but more than that, it's just one more opportunity for me to say thank you to my guys who are not here, who made it possible for us to be here," Pace said, referring to soldiers he served with who died in combat.

Pace spent a recent morning driving around the township in a rental car, beginning with a visit to his childhood home on Hillside Avenue.

"What came flooding back to me was not just the memories, but how significant Teaneck has been in my life," he said, standing in front of the olive-green uniform he last wore the day before his retirement in 2007 after more than 40 years of service. "I left when I was 17 years old in 1963. Teaneck has never left me."

About 100 people came to the library for the uniform dedication, including many veterans and members of New Milford's "Gooney Bird Detachment" of the Marine Corps League, wearing their bright red jackets and hats.

Pat Korczak, commandant of the detachment, graduated from Teaneck High School one year ahead of Pace.

"It just shows that he hasn't forgotten his roots," she said with pride before the group presented the colors. "He remembers where he came from."

Pace's parents immigrated to the United States from Italy and raised four children in Teaneck. After graduating from Teaneck High, Pace entered the United States Naval Academy and went on to hold command at virtually every level of the Marines, beginning as a Rifle



**Teaneck-raised Gen. Peter Pace, a retired four-star general who served as the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks during a dedication ceremony of his military uniform, which was donated to the Teaneck Library.**

AMY NEWMAN/NORTHJERSEY.COM

**The uniform will hang in the main room of the library, just outside the entrance to the reference department, said Allen McGinley, the library director.**

Platoon Leader in Vietnam.

"This is another example of the power of education and the power of the environment of Teaneck and what it's done for generations of children," said Paul Ostrow, a former Teaneck mayor who graduated high school with Pace's brother Tom.

The uniform will hang in the main room of the library, just outside the entrance to the reference department, said Allen McGinley, the library director.

"Thank you for the legacy you have left, your dedication and service," Councilwoman Gervonn Romney Rice told Pace. "You place the bar very high for our current students to aspire to do great things for Teaneck."

Pace, who now lives in North Carolina, said he hopes the display will serve as a source of inspiration for young people who visit the library.

"I hope they take away the thought of potentially serving their country in some capacity — whether it be in the military or the Peace Corps — some way to give back to a country that's given all of us so much," he said.