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## **The Sandy Hook Foundation Appoints Monmouth University Professor Melissa Ziobro to Its Board of Trustees**

### **For Immediate Publication; Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook**

The Sandy Hook Foundation, the Official Friends Group of the National Park Service at Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, welcomes Melissa Ziobro to its Board of Trustees, effective April 10, 2023. As a member of the board, Ms. Ziobro will be responsible for advancing resources and efforts of the Foundation, and supporting its mission to enhance the visitor experience at Sandy Hook.

Sandy Hook provides a vast menu of resources for all park visitors, including the rich historical fabric that is Fort Hancock, the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, and the NIKE Missile Radar sites. Outdoor enthusiasts visiting the park enjoy sports and recreation; naturalists are eager to discover the abundant flora and fauna; and all those who love the miles of ocean and bayside beaches enjoy the waves of the Atlantic and soft currents of the bay. The Foundation plays an important role by supporting programs and projects that make visitors' experiences better.

"The Sandy Hook Foundation proudly welcomes Melissa to our board. Her vast knowledge of military history as a Professor of Public History at Monmouth University, combined with her working knowledge of Sandy Hook stemming from her formative experience as an intern at Fort Hancock under Curator Mary Rasa, will strengthen our role within the community and enhance our partnership with the National Park Service," says Pete Izzo, President of The Sandy Hook Foundation.

Prior to her current job, Melissa was Command Historian for the US Army Communications-Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth for seven years, leaving only when the base closed. Instead of leaving the great state of New Jersey, Melissa secured a full time teaching position at her alma mater, Monmouth University, where she now teaches a wide variety of courses from US and NJ History, to Historic Preservation, and more. She has served since 2015 as the editor for *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, a joint venture of the NJ Historical Commission, Rutgers University Libraries, and Monmouth University.

Melissa also serves as a trustee of the NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, the Ocean County Historical Society, the Monmouth County Historical Association, and Preservation NJ, and works regularly with other public history organizations such as the Monmouth County Park

System, Monmouth County Historical Commission, Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage, and the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ.

Melissa notes, "I am passionate about protecting and promoting the natural and cultural resources of our beautiful state, and delighted to be returning to Sandy Hook 20 years after my internship there opened so many doors for me."

Ms. Ziobro is an Ocean County native and lives in Toms River with her husband and two teen sons. Please join us in welcoming Melissa back to Sandy Hook!

For more information about The Sandy Hook Foundation, please visit <https://www.sandyhooknj.org> or call 732-291-7733

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