



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 4/30/10



UKRAINIAN DELEGATION WELCOMED TO ALBANY



In Albany earlier this month, I had the tremendous privilege of welcoming a delegation from Ukraine that is participating in the Open World Program, an international exchange program between the United States and several nations in Eurasia. In over ten years, the Open World Program has enabled thousands of leaders in Europe and Asia to experience American democracy, civil society and community life, to gain new ideas and inspiration for implementing positive change back home.

Besides high-intensity workshops and seminars, and hands-on activities such as job shadowing and site visits, the delegates are encouraged to meet elected officials – of all levels of government – to discuss their roles and responsibilities in representing their fellow citizens. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet the delegates personally, to hear their stories, and I was delighted that a visit to Albany was incorporated into their experience here in the United States. Moreover, I would like to thank Dr. Christine Hoshowsky of the Rochester Ukrainian Group for her efforts in coordinating the delegation's visit to Albany.

I have had the great honor of partnering with Dr. Hoshowsky in the past on many occasions, and have been a strong supporter of many worthy programs and services offered to members of the Ukrainian community in my Senate District, most notably the members of the Town of Irondequoit, which is home to a very large population of Ukrainian immigrants and descendents. As Senator, I will continue to support the Rochester Ukrainian Group, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, and Sister Cities International, all well-known and highly respected local, Ukrainian organizations.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

This Monday, May 3rd, begins National Teacher Appreciation Week. In New York State, there are hundreds of thousands of teachers – regardless of whether they are current or retired teachers, public or private teachers, or primary, secondary or post-secondary teachers – that deserve recognition and appreciation for their hard work and dedication to educating our students. I frequently hear from teachers in local schools that share students' successes in the classrooms, in the auditoriums, in the gymnasiums, or in our communities.

In my experience, teachers are always seeking new ways to recognize their students' achievements, often times down-playing their important role in driving their students to excel. Occasionally great teachers are recognized, like Mr. Richard Ognibene of Fairport High School, the 2008 New York State Teacher of the Year, but all too often the countless hours of instruction or unwritten words of encouragement are overlooked collectively by students, parents, administrators and communities. This week, please take a moment to thank our teachers. Let us all take a moment to polish our apples!

WEST POINT CADETS RECOGNIZED AT STATE CAPITOL

Wednesday, April 28th, was West Point Day in Albany, an annual tribute to the men and women that attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Each year, Cadets native to New York, are invited to Albany to be recognized by members of the Senate and Assembly, and are honored at a reception in the State Capitol. Without question, West Point Day is always one of the most inspiring days in Albany during the Legislative year.

I am always humbled to be in the presence of the young men and women that will lead our military in the coming years. Their poise and dedication to our country is unwavering. I appreciate their service, and I salute their valor and patriotism and honor their contributions and service to our country. Godspeed to the Cadets at West Point and to our servicemen and women everywhere.

220 PACKETT'S LANDING | FAIRPORT, NY 14450 | (585) 223-1800

[ALESI@SENATE.STATE.NY.US](mailto:Alesi@senate.state.ny.us) | [WWW.ALESI.NYSENATE.GOV](http://www.alesi.nysenate.gov)