



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anthony H. Palumbo

New York State Senator Anthony Palumbo Honors The 2023 Woman of Distinction and the New York State Veteran Hall of Fame Nominee

ANTHONY H. PALUMBO May 19, 2023



New York State Senator Anthony Palumbo (R,C-New Suffolk) is proud to announce the 2023 New York State Woman of Distinction for the 1st Senatorial District, Jacqui Leader Sedlar and his nominee, Colonel Edwin Cartoski, for the New York State Veteran Hall of Fame. “It is my great privilege to award these two incredible individuals with these honors,” said Senator Palumbo.

On Tuesday, May 16, Jacqui Leader Sedlar of Shelter Island, joined Senator Anthony Palumbo and the entire New York State Senate in Albany to be recognized and welcomed as the 2023 New York State Woman of Distinction. For over 30 years, Ms. Leader Sedlar has worked as the Artistic Director for the East End Special Players. EESP's purpose is to provide learning challenged adults with a meaningful weekly experience that would enrich their lives. The program offers the opportunity for people whose lives are often without color, to gather in an exciting social setting, share a meal, and work together toward a common goal.

“Jacqui’s is an extraordinary woman whose brilliance, resilience, and boundless spirit have carved a path of empowerment and inspiration for all. Her unwavering determination, compassionate heart, and remarkable achievements make her a true beacon of strength,” said Senator Palumbo.

On Friday, May 12, Colonel Edwin Cartoski, surrounded by family and friends was presented a New York State Proclamation and nomination to the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame as the 2023 New York State Veteran of the Year for the 1st Senatorial District. The Senator selected the Colonel for a lifetime of Exemplary Service to his community, state and nation. Colonel Cartoski is a Westhampton native, who graduated early to enlist in the Navy to join the war efforts. After decades of service to his country, he retired from the Marine Corps in 1974 with the rank of Colonel. Throughout his military career, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Gold Star, The Air Medal with five Gold Stars, A Presidential Unit Citation for Service in Korea, Army Distinguished Citation for Service in Korea, Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal World War II, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and Korean Presidential Unit Citation for Service in Korea.

“Through unwavering courage, selfless dedication, and exceptional service, Colonel Cartoski has not only earned this distinguished award but embodies the very essence of

honor and valor. His resolute commitment to duty serves as an inspiration to us all. I congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition, and may it stand as a testament to his extraordinary contributions to our nation," said Senator Palumbo.