



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

David J. Valesky

Senator Valesky Recognizes America's Bravest on Armed Forces Day May 15

DAVID J. VALESKY May 14, 2010

| ISSUE: **MILITARY AFFAIRS, MILITARY, TROOPS, NATIONAL GUARD, VETERANS**

SYRACUSE, N.Y.--State Senator David J. Valesky (D-Oneida) asks the community to join him in honoring past and present members of the United States Military on Armed Forces Day, May 15. The national day of recognition honors past and present members of the United States military by commemorating their dedication and sacrifice on Armed Forces Day.

"New York has a rich history thanks in large part to the many men and women who have honorably served our nation protecting our freedoms both here and abroad." Senator Valesky said. "The sacrifices our fellow New Yorkers have endured should never be forgotten, and though we should show our gratitude each day, Armed Forces Day provides us an opportunity to publicly pay tribute."

Armed Forces Day traces its history to the establishment of the Department of Defense under President Harry S. Truman, who began this annual celebration to thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country, and remember all those who sacrificed to make our country what it is today. The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated in 1949 by parades, open houses, receptions and air shows.

The very first motto was "Teamed for Defense" – the Department of Defense's motto for this year's celebration is "United in Strength."

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy marked Armed Services Day saying, "...Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard."

###