



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Suzi Oppenheimer

## Senator Suzi Oppenheimer Names Ronald C. Tocci to the New York Senate "Veterans Hall of Fame"

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Senator Suzi Oppenheimer (D-Mamaroneck) this week named Ronald C. Tocci to the New York Senate "Veterans Hall of Fame". The award recognizes veterans for exceptional service in both the military and the community.

A lifelong resident of Westchester County, Tocci served from 1966-1968 as a paratrooper for the U.S. Army in the 82nd Airborne Division. After an honorable discharge, his passion for serving his country and fellow soldiers led him to a career in public service. He began as an Assemblyman in the Westchester County Legislature for four consecutive terms then served in the New York State Assembly for ten terms.

Assemblyman Tocci is widely known for spearheading policy changes that address veterans concerns, as well as legislation combating alcohol and substance abuse in the community. As chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Tocci was responsible for laws helping veterans become eligible for benefits, receive college tuition assistance, and become employed in the public sector. He secured funding for veterans nursing homes and passed a resolution urging Congress to prohibit physical desecration of the American Flag. His dedication to veterans' affairs and to the community earned him the National Distinguished Service Medal presented by the New York State Department – American Legion.

In 2004, Tocci was appointed Commissioner for Veterans Affairs for New York State where he coordinated and oversaw all programs servicing veterans. In 2007 he retired from that position and now heads the Tocci Group, a consulting firm that advises political groups, media organizations and private corporations on how to better their interests in their communities.

“Ron Tocci is an outstanding example of what it means to serve one's country,” said Senator Oppenheimer. “On both the military and public battlefields, he has dedicated his life to the betterment of our nation; he deserves to be recognized.”

Senator Oppenheimer's speech honoring Ronald Tocci and New York veterans may be viewed on her website at [www.oppenheimer.nysenate.gov](http://www.oppenheimer.nysenate.gov).

Photo Caption: Senator Suzi Oppenheimer names former Assemblyman and Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ronald Tocci to the NY Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.