



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph E. Robach

## Ray Melens Inducted in NYS Veterans Hall of Fame

JOSEPH E. ROBACH May 21, 2013

| ISSUE: **VETERANS**



**SENATOR JOE ROBACH HONORS RAY MELENS**

**WITH INDUCTION INTO NYS VETERANS HALL OF FAME**

*Annual Program Honors Veteran's Contributions to Our Community*

State Senator Joe Robach announces the induction of Ray Melens, an active member in the Rochester veteran community, to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame on

Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>. This honor is designed to pay tribute to New Yorkers whose gallantry in the U.S. Armed Forces is complimented by their service to the community and their accomplishments as a civilian.

“The New York State Senate Veteran’s Hall of Fame gives special recognition to distinguished individuals as a way to express our deep gratitude and admiration” says Senator Robach.

“Ray has dedicated his life to serving this nation and his counterparts and he is most deserving of this great honor.”

Melens enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after graduating from Greece Arcadia High School in 1968 and was sent to serve in South Vietnam. For his outstanding service while enlisted, he has earned numerous medals and honors which include: the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Unit citations and the New York State Medal for Merit.

After his service, Melens devoted his time to helping and honoring his fellow veterans. He is the Chairperson of Vietnam Veterans of America and was elected to be part of the Rochester Chapter’s Board of Directors. Also, as a Marching Unit Commander, Melens formed an Honor Guard for funerals and for various ceremonies. This effort has become nationally recognized. In addition to these many duties, Melens spends much of his spare time giving tours and helping with the upkeep of the Greater Rochester Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Melens will be inducted into the New York State Veteran's Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Tuesday May, 21, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Legislative Office Buiding. Each honoree's photograph and biography will become part of a special on-line exhibit proclaiming the contributions of these exemplary New York Veterans.