



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Memorial Day 2013

PATTY RITCHIE May 24, 2013

| ISSUE: **VETERANS**

I would like to thank everyone for coming out today to join me in honoring our fallen veterans and thanking the veterans and their families who are here to celebrate Memorial Day.

It's a privilege for me to be here with so many men and women who have served their nation. You are truly our nation's heroes. Your sacrifices—and your service—have truly made our country a better place.

From the beaches of France, to the jungles of the South Pacific and Vietnam...

From the frigid winters of Korea to the hot sands of the Middle East...

To defending the homeland during the Cold War... your service and sacrifice continue to inspire us.

But for many of you, I also recognize your service didn't end with the issuing of your DD-214.

Even after serving, many of you have continued to make contributions to your community. Whether it's continuing to help those who serve by being active in our local veterans organizations, or helping our region develop and prosper, your dedication and love for our country—and our region—have truly made a difference.

As citizens of this great nation, we will forever be indebted to you for the sacrifices you have made.

I am honored to say "thanks" to all of the veterans and current members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are here today; and also those who can't be with us.

Although it is impossible to repay them for their service, we should take every opportunity we have to recognize their commitment to our country. May they continue to be blessed as they safeguard our country and protect our freedom.