



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mark Grisanti

## Grisanti Names Jason Jaskula “Veteran Of The Month”

MARK GRISANTI August 29, 2014

| ISSUE: **VETERANS**



New York State Senator Mark Grisanti recently named Jason Jaskula as the eighth recipient of his “Veteran of the Month” recognition program.

A resident of the Town of Hamburg who served in the Army with the 165th MP Company and later with Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Knox, Jaskula is the eighth recipient of a monthly honor presented by Senator Grisanti thanks to an application and nomination process coordinated by staff members who work in Grisanti’s veterans liaison office.

“I am pleased to recognize Sergeant Major Jaskula for his passion not only for serving our country but for supporting other military veterans,” said Senator Grisanti, a member of the

New York State Senate's Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committees. "His tour and military career is filled with various awards and honors and his work with the Buffalo City Court Veterans Program and the Department of Veterans Affairs location in Buffalo is to be commended."

SGM Jaskula joined the Army in 1989 and served four years active duty, first with the 165th MP Company and then with Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Knox before being discharged. He immediately joined the Army Reserves and served for the past 21 years, currently serving as part of the 80th Training Command.

SGM Jaskula was deployed in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, attached to CENTCOM and subsequently attached to several additional units, including the First Cavalry Division, First Marine Division and First Infantry Division. While deployed, he served on a 10-man team as a military advisor for the Central Command Multi-National Force in Iraq. He advised and supervised the Iraqi Arm's Fifth Division, Sixth Battalion as it carried out over 150 combat missions, many of which occurred during Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah.

SGM Jaskula's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Combat Action Badge and various other awards during his tour and military career.

The impact of the death of his best friend, SSG Christopher Dill, a Western New York native and City of Buffalo firefighter who was killed in action in 2005 during a combat mission in Diyala Province, led to SGM Jaskula involving himself in local veterans programs and

organizations to make sure that “no veteran is forgotten.” He proudly serves as a mentor and law enforcement liaison between the Buffalo City Court Veterans Program and the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is also involved with the VA’s annual “Welcome Home” event and created the Christopher Dill Memorial Car Cruise in conjunction with the Welcome Home celebration. He was also involved with the 2013 Golden Age Games that were held in Buffalo.

One of SGM Jaskula’s biggest accomplishments since being discharged was the KIA Memorial Road March. In 2012 he marched 13.6 miles carrying a ruck sack weighted with 60 pounds of memorial rocks, each of which featured the name of one of the 60 service members from Western New York who were killed in action during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn. He raised over \$4,000 to support local veterans and also helped bring attention to all of those local residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

SGM Jaskula opened up the KIA Memorial Road March to the general public last year and helped coordinate the first-ever KIA Memorial Road March at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park, with over 100 participants each carrying an average of 40 pounds of canned goods over a 6.2-mile course. The event raised over \$10,000 to support local veterans and approximately 5,100 pounds of canned goods were donated to help local veterans and their families.

SGM Jaskula works as a deputy chief of police with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Buffalo, is a member of Red Jacket VFW Post No. 3068 and is active with Vets4Vets/Pathfinders