



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kemp Hannon

## Francisco Muniz III

KEMP HANNON May 19, 2015



Francisco Muniz III

**Award:** Honoring Our Veterans

**Year:** 2015

Francisco Muniz III is a tireless and determined veteran's advocate. He was born in Puerto Rico, the son of a World War II United States Army veteran, and grew up in New York City. During his junior year in college, Mr. Muniz was drafted by the United States Army, and he served nobly.

Mr. Muniz completed his Basic Training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, in 1964, and his AIT at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Division "Big Red One," and was deployed to Vietnam, where he served with distinction. Mr. Muniz was honorably discharged in 1966, with the rank of Specialist-4.

In 1980, Mr. Muniz joined the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #82 of Hicksville, New York, where he immediately and over the years, took on a variety of officer and board positions. Since 2005, he has served as the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council, in addition to his many other commitments.

Based on some personal combat experiences, Mr. Muniz embodies the phrase, "Never again will one generation of veterans forget another." He has won numerous awards for veterans' advocacy on national, state and local levels, for both his service and his writings.

Mr. Muniz is a founding member of the Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island, a coalition of agencies that provide outreach, advocacy and training to veterans and their families. Today, he serves as a peer facilitator for the Nassau County PFC Dwyer Project, providing Vet2Vet Peer Support to veterans of all generations.

Francisco Muniz has not only served his nation greatly overseas, but also on our soil. He has devoted his life to make sure that his fellow veterans get what they deserve and worked so hard for – and that they are never forgotten.