



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Timothy M. Kennedy

Russell A. Guthrie

TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY May 19, 2015



Russell A. Guthrie

**Award:** Honoring Our Veterans

**Year:** 2015

United States Army

Russell A. Guthrie, a lifelong resident of the City of Buffalo, honorably served in the United States Army during World War II. As a Sergeant First Class and Tank Gunner, Mr. Guthrie was assigned to the legendary 761st Tank Battalion, the first armored unit of African American soldiers to see combat in World War II. Known as the "Black Panthers," the unit's extraordinary bravery and heroism was recognized by General George S. Patton and became known additionally as "Patton's Panthers." As a member of the 761st, Mr. Guthrie participated in four major Allied campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge and D-Day.

Mr. Guthrie was honored for his service with a Purple Heart, a Meritorious Unit Citation, and a Good Conduct Medal. In addition, President Jimmy Carter properly recognized Mr. Guthrie's outstanding service with a Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for Extraordinary Heroism.

Mr. Guthrie continued to serve his beloved Western New York community long after his honorable discharge. Mr. Guthrie was a lifelong member of the American Legion, American Veterans, and the United Veterans of Buffalo until his passing on July 5th, 2014.

Russell A. Guthrie was a true hero, fighting for, and believing in, the value of all American lives long before he and his unit were given the same recognition. We are immensely grateful for and eternally indebted to his service.