



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Leroy Comrie

## Willie Burks

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Willie Burks was drafted by the United States Army in 1968. While in Vietnam, he was wounded, and it was during his recovery that he decided to educate himself by attending York College and Allen Medical School, eventually graduating as a lab technician.

Community service has always been important to Mr. Burks; it gives him a sense of great pleasure. In 1978, Mr. Burks joined Proctor Hopson VFW Post 1896, where he became Allstate Post Commander. He serves as Senior Vice Commander and President of the Post Memorial Association, and is currently the Hospital Chairman and Patriotic Instructor.

In 2002, Mr. Burks joined the Masonic Mason, where he received his 32nd Degree; he has held the position of Wishful Master, Sir Knight, Royal Arch, Lodge of Perfection, Sublime Prince, St. John Consistory and Shrine, R.W. Deputy Grand Master.

Among the many community services Mr. Burks participates in are two “stand downs” per year for veterans and their families. During these “stand downs”, clothing and food are distributed, along with information about housing, medical care and employment.

Mr. Burks has received many awards for his courage, sacrifice and dedication to his country. These awards include the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his sacrifice, a Unit Citation, Homeless Veterans Service Award, NAACP awards for Recognition for Contributions to the Cause of Justice and Equality, P.T.S.D. Founder Award and Outstanding Service as Domiciliary, the New York City Council Certificate of Recognition, New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit Extended Care Center Volunteer, State of New York legislative resolution and proclamation, and many others.

Mr. Burks has faced every obstacle with unrelenting bravery and allegiance to his country. Although he was drafted into the Army, his service did not end with the end of his deployment. His dedication to his fellow veterans, both during wartime and peace, is what makes him worthy of praise.