



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

George Amedore

## SENATOR GEORGE AMEDORE INDUCTS KINGSTON NATIVE JOSEPH FORTE INTO NEW YORK STATE SENATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

GEORGE AMEDORE May 24, 2016



Senator George Amedore today announced the induction of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran Master Sergeant Joseph Forte, of Kingston, into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame. The Senate's Veterans' Hall of Fame honors and recognizes outstanding veterans from throughout the state who have distinguished themselves in their military service, as well as their civilian life.

“It was truly an honor to recognize Master Sergeant Forte, not only for his military service, but for his continued service on behalf of all of the veterans in his community,” said Senator Amedore. “He has dedicated his life to serving our nation, and upon his retirement, continues to serve his fellow veterans and their families. He is an American hero, and truly deserving of induction into the Veterans’ Hall of Fame.

Joseph S. Forte was born on March 26, 1929 in Kingston, NY. At the age of 15 he became a member of the New York Guard and became a distinguished marksman. Shortly after turning 16 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and trained as a B-25 Gunner, becoming an instructor with the rank of Sergeant. When it was discovered he was underage he was discharged and returned home until he turned 17 and reenlisted.

For 26 years, he played the trumpet with the United States Military Academy Band’s “Hellcats” and traveled with the Army Football Team. He received the Excellence in Competition Marksmanship Award, achieved by only a small percentage in the military.

Master Sergeant Forte is a decorated soldier who served on active duty in the Army from World War II, through Korea, and into the Vietnam War era. During his service, he earned the World War II Gunners Wings, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal 9th Award, National Defense Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, Under-aged Veterans Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Expert

Qualification Badge for Rifle, Pistol, Carbine.

Since his retirement from service in 1973, Joseph Forte has continued to serve veterans, their families, and his community. He's been actively involved in: Ulster County Chapter 60, Vietnam Veterans of America; Ulster County Chapter 156 Disabled American Veterans (DAV); American Legion Post 150; VFW Post 1386; and is an honorary member of Ulster Detachment 253, Marine Corps League. He has held numerous offices including Commander of American Legion Post 150, and Commander of U.C. Chapter 156 D.A.V. to name a few.

He is a past recipient of the Kingston Veterans Association Veteran of The Year honor and is the bugler for the New York State Disabled American Veterans. He continues to play his bugle at the funerals of fellow veterans.

This year's inductees were honored today at an induction ceremony at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Master Sergeant Forte had a special role in the ceremony, performing Taps in honor of all the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their nation

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