



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

## Seward Secures Grant for German Flatts

JEFF BISHOP, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR January 25, 2017

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**GERMAN FLATTS, 01/25/17** – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I/Ref-Oneonta) today joined officials from the Town of German Flatts to announce a \$100,000 state grant to help fund several improvements at the town park including the creation of a new “War Dogs” memorial.

**“Historic German Flatts Town Park is a true gem that helps enhance the local quality of life for residents and visitors alike,”** said Senator Seward. **“The improvements set to take place will help fortify park buildings and increase park utilization. Erecting a memorial paying homage to military**

**dog handlers and their canine companions is a wonderful tribute to this segment of the armed forces that is often unknown.”**

Town of German Flatts Supervisor Frank Spatto said, “The people of German Flatts are incredibly grateful to Senator Seward for his support of the improvements at our town park. The park is an important community asset and Senator Seward’s assistance will allow us to move forward with these upgrades without sacrificing other budgetary needs.”

Herkimer County Legislator John Brezinski said, “The new ‘War Dogs’ memorial is a long standing labor of love for myself and many others in the community. Thanks to Senator Seward, we will now be able to highlight the service and sacrifice of our military dog handlers and their brave canine companions. The new memorial will fulfill an important educational role and help draw visitors to German Flatts.”

The capital grant secured by Senator Seward through the State and Municipal Facilities Program will fund building improvements including new flooring, electrical wiring and other upgrades at the park’s community center and historic schoolhouse.

A portion of the state funding will also be used to construct a monument to memorialize the generations of veterans who served in all branches of the military as well as the Military Working Dogs (MWD) and their handlers. The not-for-profit Guardians of Freedom Memorial Inc. has already raised over \$10,000 to help fund the new bronze statue.

**“German Flatts Town Park is a source of pride for residents and home to a number of exceptional community events, most notably the Living History Weekend. The improvements being made will further enhance this community focal point and ensure that generations to come will continue to enjoy the rich history of German Flatts,”** Seward concluded.