



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kenneth P. LaValle

## Reginald Peterson

KENNETH P. LAVALLE May 15, 2017

| ISSUE: **VETERANS HALL OF FAME**



Reginald Peterson served in the United States Army during World War II from 1943-1946. He left high school in his senior year to join the military, when our country was in need. Mr. Peterson was involved in heavy fighting while in Germany, and was declared Missing-in-Action two times during the War. By the time of his discharge, he reached the rank of Technical Sergeant.

For his heroic achievements in a combat zone, Mr. Peterson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. The Army also bestowed Mr. Peterson with a Purple Heart after he was wounded by

shrapnel in an attack during the War. Despite the award recognition, when he was discharged from service, there were no actual medals provided to Mr. Peterson due to a shortage. Unfortunately, it took 70 years to properly honor and present him with the medals he earned.

After completing his Army service, Mr. Peterson returned to Long Island, married his wife, Helen, and raised a family. He was active in the 4H club as a leader and helped to teach young children important skills they would need later in life. He volunteered his time to coach baseball as well.

Over the last 19 years, Mr. Peterson has focused his volunteer efforts with the Samaritan's Purse charity. Working with the organization, he has overseen the preparation of 16,000 gift-filled shoeboxes provided to children in need during Christmas time every year.

Mr. Peterson resides with his wife in East Marion. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. His selection for the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame is a fitting honor in recognition of his patriotism and service to our country.