



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Terrence Murphy

## Senator Murphy celebrates a decade of living history with Somers Middle School students

TERRENCE MURPHY May 30, 2017

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Somers, NY - Senator Terrence Murphy took a walk through history at the 10th Annual American Heritage Living History Day held at Somers Middle School on May 25th. An honored guest, Senator Murphy spoke one-on-one with many of the 7th grade students about the significance of our vast historical heritage. The annual event gathers historians, reenactors, police officers, firefighters and volunteers for a "Living History Day." The celebration highlights key moments in American history, particularly those moments that helped shape the nation. This year's program featured the Star Fife and Drum Corps and Historic Color Guard and the Middle School Chorus. Other attractions included re-enactments of soldiers' lives during the Revolutionary and Civil

Wars, portrayals of early American historical figures, World War I and II re-enactors, and visits by local veterans. Bill Wienecke, who taught history for 35 years and organized the event, dressed up as George Washington, topped off with a powdered wig. "We learn about ourselves as individuals and as a nation through our past history," said Senator Murphy. "I think the students are surprised to learn that the people who lived in this area in the 1700's had many of the same beliefs and hopes for their future that we have today. Living History Day helps give the students a better understanding of the many sacrifices made by our military, and it accentuates the importance of family and community. This is a great tradition that the students, volunteers, and families look forward to." "Part of what makes Somers such a wonderful place to live is our dedicated volunteers," said Somers Town Supervisor Rick Morrissey. "Bill Wienecke lives the role of General Washington and has been great at engaging the students and getting them interested in learning more about our heritage. I often tell our seventh graders how lucky they are, because while other seventh graders are sitting in a classroom, they get to have an interactive history lesson with equipment and artifacts that range from the Revolutionary War up to the War in Afghanistan." Senator Murphy presented the Somers Middle School with a resolution commemorating the event. The resolution also recognized the Board of Education, Somers Police Department, Somers Fire Department, EMTs, State Police, PTA, Somers Historical Society, SEF, Somers Lions Club, the Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity, Daughters of the American Revolution, GAR, Yorktown Historical Society, and local officials for their community service.