



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins



Senator John J. Flanagan



Senator Jeffrey D. Klein



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

Dear Veterans, Friends and Families:

Welcome to the annual Veterans' Hall of Fame Ceremony. It is with a great sense of pride and admiration that we in the New York State Senate are once again honoring and recognizing outstanding veterans from the Empire State who have distinguished themselves both in military and civilian life.

The veterans gathered here today have given their lives to a cause greater than themselves, and in doing so, have protected our country and way of life. Today we honor these heroic New Yorkers whom we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their past bravery in military endeavors has helped shape the American landscape- a country of strength, freedom and diverse beauty.

Many of those here today have also helped extensively in their communities. These are not only veterans, but community organizers, teachers, small business owners, police officers, firefighters, emergency personnel and first responders.

Finally, as we pay homage to all the veterans, let us not forget the families – fathers, mothers, daughters and sons – who also participated in the rich tradition of military life. Thank you all for your laudable service to our nation.

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Democratic
Conference Leader

Senator John J. Flanagan
Temporary President
Majority Leader
Coalition Leader

Senator Jeffrey D. Klein
Independent Democratic
Conference Leader
Coalition Leader



NEW YORK STATE SENATE 2015
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

PROGRAM

National Anthem

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by
Colonel Lee Schiller, Jr.
Commander of the Watervleit Arsenal

SPEAKERS

Senator John J. Flanagan
Senator Jeffrey D. Klein
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senator William J. Larkin

INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES

Senator Thomas D. Croci

SPECIAL THANKS

Gettysburg Flag Works
for generous donations of center pieces.

www.gettysburgflag.com

Susan E. Wells

Stars4ourTroops@aol.com

Amy Amoroso

NYS Program Coordinator for Veteran Business
Outreach

Purple Heart Foundation

<http://www.thepurpleheart.com>



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

COLONEL LEE H. SCHILLER, JR.

Colonel Lee H. Schiller Jr. is the 58th commander of the Watervliet Arsenal.

He was born in Baltimore, Maryland and received his commission in 1988 from Western Maryland College. He first served as Medical Services Corps Officer and then branch transferred to the Ordnance Corps. His military education includes the Medical Service Corps Officer Basic and Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, United States Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology from Western Maryland College, a Master's in Healthcare Administration from Baylor University and a Master's of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His previous assignments include Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); Company Commander, 2d Infantry Division; Logistics Officer Joint Task Force Bravo; Observer Controller, Joint Readiness Center; Officer Advanced Course Small Group Instructor; Battalion

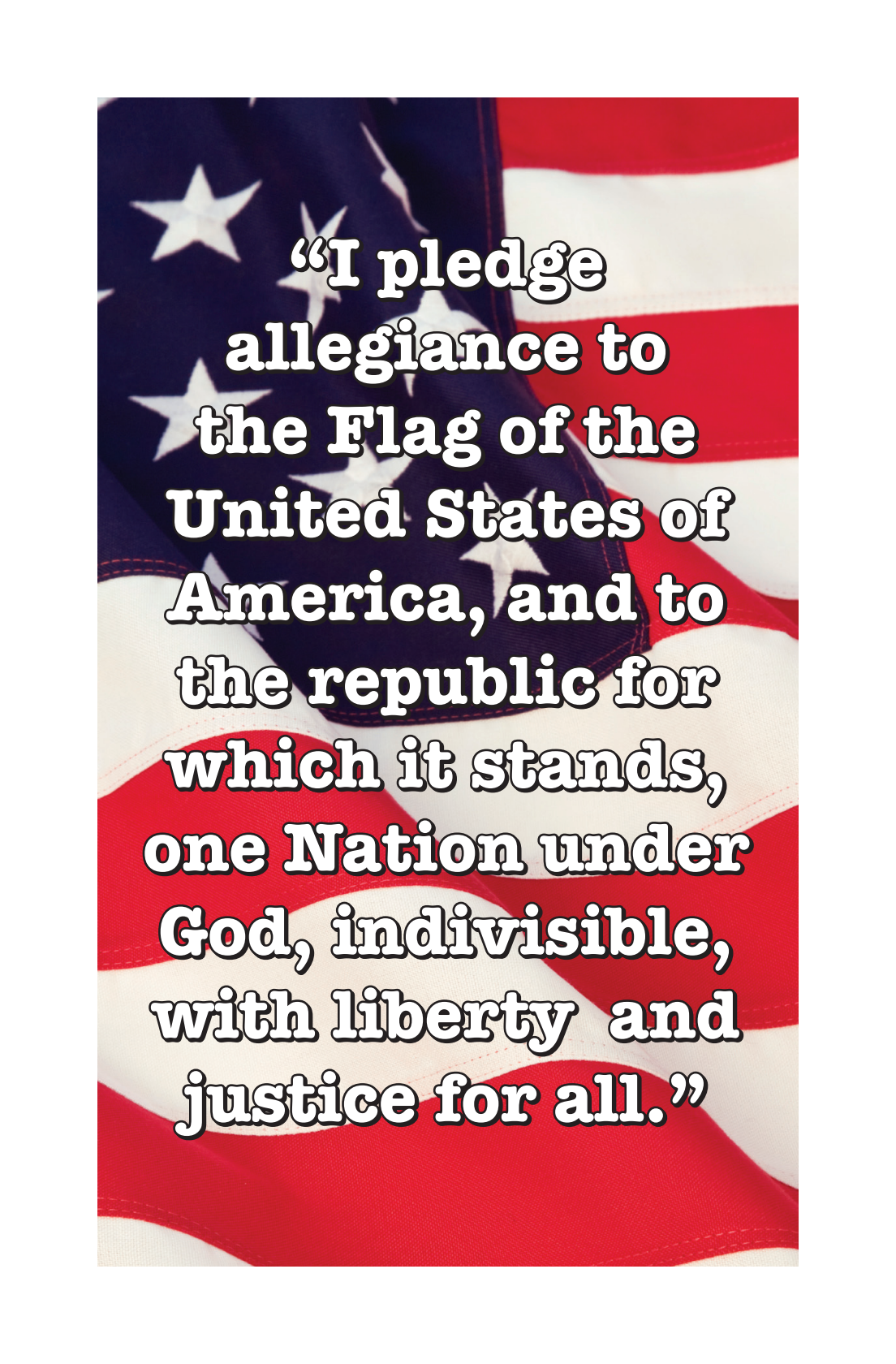
Executive Officer, TF 28th CSH; Depot Commander, Sierra Army Depot; Staff Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, HQDA; Senior Military Advisor to the Iraqi Armed Forces and Site Lead and served as the Deputy Director for Maintenance Policies and Programs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, HQDA. He assumed command of the Watervliet Arsenal, New York on July 18, 2013.

Colonel Schiller's operational experiences include Platoon Leader, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; Logistics Officer, Joint Task Force Bravo, Honduras; Battalion Executive Officer, Operation Iraqi Freedom; Senior Military Advisor and Site Lead, Operation New Dawn and the Office of Security and Cooperation-Iraq.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Southwest Service Asia Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Saudi and Kuwaiti Liberation Medals, Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge and Combat Medical Badge.

He is married to the former Ms. Christine Brown, a retired Lieutenant Colonel and Army Nurse. They have four children: Andrew, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Matthew.



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text is overlaid on this background.

**“I pledge
allegiance to
the Flag of the
United States of
America, and to
the republic for
which it stands,
one Nation under
God, indivisible,
with liberty and
justice for all.”**

2015 HONOREES





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

PAUL NARSON

Paul Narson bravely joined the United States Army in September 1959, and underwent basic military training in New Jersey before going to South Carolina for his Advanced Infantry training. After graduation, Mr. Narson went to Brooklyn and boarded the USA S Buckner, arriving in Germany in February 1960. Stationed in Munich, Mr. Narson was there during the Berlin Crisis of 1961, and he and his fellow veterans had an extended tour of duty in order to protect the German borders in the event of war. In August 1965, after serving with courage and valor, Mr. Narson was honorably discharged from the United States Army.

Mr. Narson has been recognized for his noble courage with numerous medals and awards, including the United States Army Expeditionary Forces Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, the United States Army Reserve Medal, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Expert Rifle Badge, the Expert Pistol Badge and the New York State Medal for Merit.

While he never served in Vietnam, Mr. Narson was a staunch supporter of the troops fighting, and attended many parades and rallies in their honor. He joined the Jewish War Veterans in 1970, and the American Legion in 1971, but found his true home in a veterans' organization some 18 years later – when he was invited to join Chapter 32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Currently the President, Mr. Narson has been an active member ever since, has held every position in the chapter except treasurer, has been a state and national delegate for 16 years, and was the VVA New York State Council Membership Chairman for two years. Mr. Narson remains aware of the importance of staying involved for the good of his fellow veterans.

Beyond his work with the VVA, Mr. Narson has served his community in a wide variety of ways. He worked as a tutor for learning-disabled children, has been involved with efforts to distribute Valentine's Day gifts at the St. Albans Veterans Hospital and has helped to provide Christmas gifts for sick children at the Ronald McDonald House. He has also been involved with the POW-MIA Memorial in Maspeth, assisted with barbeque picnics for the residents of the New York State Domiciliary and the New York State Veterans Nursing Home in St. Albans, and has worked selflessly on the committee that brought the Moving Vietnam Memorial to Queens.

Paul Narson and his wife, Marilyn, have two beloved children – David, who was adopted from Costa Rica, and Maria, who was adopted from Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Narson has never underestimated the importance of family and community and has dedicated his life to the betterment of others, both overseas and for our nation.



**PAUL NARSON NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

ARCANGELO BOLLELLA

Arcangelo Bollella came to the United States from Italy at the age of 18, and at the age of 21 he joined the United States Army and returned to Italy to fight for his new country in the Mediterranean Theater with the 36th Infantry Division.

He distinguished himself during the Naples-Foggia Campaign and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service during ground operations against the enemy.

PFC Bollella was severely wounded during the war and spent 3 years in the hospital before finally being released. He then took a job as an Elevator Operator for the Veterans' Administration and retired from the Veterans' Administration as a Special Tactical Police Officer.

PFC Bollella has earned numerous distinctions, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, World War II Victory Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 2 stars, Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.



ARCANGELO BOLLELLA NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR GEORGE AMADORE.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JAMES H. DUNN

A lifelong Queens resident, James H. Dunn honorably served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, enlisting in the Armed Services at the age of 19. Mr. Dunn served our country honorably and bravely overseas for many tours.

Mr. Dunn joined the Marine Corps on January 31, 1964 and was sent to train at Parris Island, South Carolina. He was then assigned to the 12th Marines in Okinawa, Japan, from January until March, 1965. At that point, he was assigned to South Vietnam with the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Danang Chuili with the 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Division, until March 1966. Mr. Dunn then returned stateside to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, until he was deployed for his second tour to Vietnam with the 3rd Division. He returned to the United States and was honorably discharged as a Marine Sergeant in January 1970.

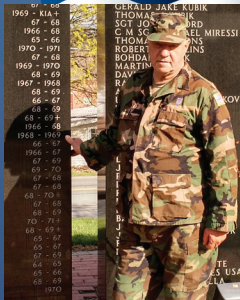
During his service, Mr. Dunn received numerous awards, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a Bronze Star. He was recognized for his gallant and allegiant military service.

Mr. Dunn's service to the country did not end after his military service. He is still a member of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 32 and The Marine Corps League Detachment 240, and is Past Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 885. Mr. Dunn still assists in distributing care packages to shut-in veterans and volunteers to drive them or their spouses to medical appointments.

Mr. Dunn and his wife, Maureen, reside in Queens. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.



**JAMES H. DUNN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR TONY AVELLA.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

MICHAEL P. CODY, JR.

Michael P. Cody Jr. was raised in Suffern, New York. In February 1967, he entered into the service of the United States Army. While serving his country in the Vietnam War, Mr. Cody was wounded in action and found himself in an Army hospital in Japan. Due to the severity of his wounds, Mr. Cody was returned to the States, and received an honorable discharge from active duty in 1969.

Unfortunately for many of those who fought, the welcome home was not warm. Mr. Cody has dedicated his life to not only getting the Vietnam veterans the recognition they deserve, but also working tirelessly to make sure that no returning soldier ever faces what he did.

Mr. Cody is the President of the American Soldiers' Statue Committee, a group that has worked for more than 20 years to have monuments built in the Middletown community which honor all who fought. Mr. Cody was instrumental in building the beautiful memorial in the Town of Wallkill Memorial Park, that not only honors those killed in action, but all men and women who have proudly served.

Mr. Cody continues to serve by helping raise money to purchase trailers that are taken from event to event as mobile museums. One is dedicated to 9/11 and the other serves as a Veterans' Information Center. Mr. Cody is currently working on creating another, dedicated to those who served.

Michael P. Cody Jr. fought bravely in Vietnam, and continued to fight for his fellow veterans upon his return. As such, he deserves recognition for his valiant efforts in protecting our country and its citizens – a legacy which he continues through his selfless and generous actions today.



**MICHAEL P. CODY, JR. NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOHN BONACIC.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

THOMAS J. HERON II

Thomas Heron II joined the Marine Corps two weeks after graduating from Centereach High school. Thomas went to Paris Island for Boot Camp. At twenty-nine he enrolled in a communications school in Palms, California. He was assigned to 9th Communications Battalion and shortly after, volunteered to go to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, where he was deployed in the Western Pacific.

Following that deployment he went to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and did two deployments. One deployment was Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and the other was to Somalia. Thomas was stationed at Camp Pendleton for the duration of his time on active duty. He completed seven years, five months and seven days with an Honorable Discharge. After completing active duty he went into the Reserves. His final station was Amityville N.Y. with Alpha Company, Sixth Communications Battalion. He completed a total of thirteen years, ending October of 1999, again with an Honorable Discharge as a Sergeant.

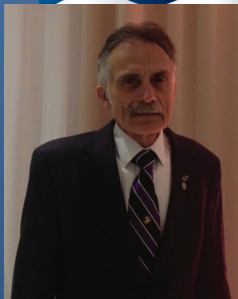
Thomas was a part of two units Noncombatant evacuation teams. The highest award he received was two Navy Marine Corps Medals. He was a part of a five Marine team who worked on the development and operation of the Satellite and Line of sight antennas on the C-17. He is now a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1992, and is also a life member of The Marine Corps League.

Thomas joined the New York City Police Department in December of 1997 and is a proud member of the Selden Fire Department. While in the NYPD, he worked in the 109th Precinct in Flushing Queens. He was then transferred to the 115 Precinct in Jackson Heights. As a member of the NYPD he was an integral part of the team in the days and months that followed the Sept 11th World Trade Center Attacks.



**THOMAS J. HERON II NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR PHIL BOYLE.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

TOM MARINELLO

On June 6, 1969, at age 19, Tom Marinello bravely entered the United States Army. Mr. Marinello arrived in Dau Tieng, Vietnam, as an infantryman on November 2, 1969, and was assigned to A CO 2nd 28th Infantry, First Infantry Division. After fighting courageously, he was wounded by shrapnel on November 17, 1969, and when the First Infantry Division was rotated back to the states, Mr. Marinello was assigned to A CO 1st 5th Infantry 25th Infantry Division.

On May 9, 1970, Mr. Marinello was wounded during the Cambodian Incursion by a gunshot to the stomach. Due to complications, he was in intensive care until the end of July of that year. Mr. Marinello's sacrifice can be measured in his profound hearing loss, due to an allergic reaction to the antibiotics used in his treatment. He was moved to Pennsylvania for additional surgery, and in February 1970, to Walter Reed Army Hospital for hearing rehabilitation.

Mr. Marinello was hospitalized for 14 months and was only able to make a full recovery because of the dedicated Army medical staff who took care of him. Maj. John P. Christy, MD., his doctor at the hospital in Camp Zama, Japan, simply refused to give up when nothing seemed to work when his recovery slowed. Without his personal dedication and encouragement, Mr. Marinello would never have recovered.

In recognition of his perseverance and valor, Mr. Marinello received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Purple Heart Army Commendation Medal w/1st OLC Combat Infantry Badge and the Marksman Badge, among others.

Mr. Marinello has not forgotten what his fellow veterans did for him, and he works tirelessly to make sure they are taken care of and not forgotten. He is a member of Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, VFW Post 6776 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

In 1981, Tom Marinello and his wife, Linda, started Marinello Construction Co., Inc. which specializes in masonry, plaster and stonework. He has been a member of Laborers Local 190 since 1968, and various other labor and contractors' associations. Despite all the odds against him while serving our country, Mr. Marinello displayed an amazing amount of strength and survived. He is blessed with a family of two children and three grandchildren.



**TOM MARINELLO NAMED TO THE NEW YORK
STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR NEIL D. BRESLIN.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

FRANK MOREA

Retired Sergeant Frank Morea served in the United States Army from March 1942 to December 1945, unselfishly and unwaveringly serving his country during World War II. Mr. Morea served with the 77th Infantry Division, 304 Field Artillery in the Pacific Theatre in Leyte, Cebu, Kerama Retto, IE Shim, Okinawa and Hokkaido.

Mr. Morea has received many awards for his dedication and service to the United States Army and his country. Some of these recognitions include the Asiatic Pacific Three Star Citation, the World War II Medal, Philippine Independence Medal, Good Conduct Mechanic's Medal and the Conspicuous Service Medal.

Upon Mr. Morea's completion of active service with the Army, he worked many years for the United States Postal Service. Since his retirement, Mr. Morea has enjoyed traveling and spending time with his four children, 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Retired Sergeant Frank Morea will be celebrating his 102nd birthday in June.



FRANK MOREA NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR DAVID CARLUCCI.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

CAROL ST. PIERRE

Carol St. Pierre has been a United States Army Nurse for more than 29 years. She has served in numerous positions of increased leadership and nurse-related management in both her Army Reserve and civilian careers. Currently, Ms. St. Pierre serves steadfastly and dutifully as Corporal for the United States Army Nurse Corps.

Ms. St. Pierre is unwavering in her commitment to serving her community, as evidenced by her active membership in the National Association of Black Military Women. She is a founding member and current President of the New York/New Jersey Chapter.

In this role, Ms. St. Pierre is committed to keeping alive the history and heritage of black women who served our nation with courage and valor in the military services. One of her primary goals is to foster a spirit of camaraderie and goodwill among all individuals interested in black history through community involvement programs. Ms. St. Pierre's second goal is to motivate and support black youth to attain academic excellence by utilizing military role models as a source of inspiration.

Ms. St. Pierre volunteers with various military associations including the USO, and has adopted deployed soldiers through the Adopt-a-Platoon Program. Recognizing the importance of staying active – not just in our backyard but across the world – Ms. St. Pierre has also participated in humanitarian missions in Nigeria and Haiti.

Carol St. Pierre is an energetic, eager and thoughtful leader who inspires others while promoting teamwork. No matter what the task, she can always be counted on to carry it out with a positive approach and attitude.



CAROL ST. PIERRE NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR LEROY COMRIE.



JOAN A. FUREY, RN, MA

Joan Furey was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1946 and grew up in Terryville, a small town on Long Island. She graduated from the Pilgrim State Hospital School of Nursing, in Brentwood, in September 1967. In June 1968, she was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Nurse Corps.

Upon completing basic training Ms. Furey was assigned to Letterman General Army Hospital at the Presidio in San Francisco, California. She worked in the emergency room and the recovery room, where she cared for many injured who were evacuated from Vietnam. While at Letterman, she volunteered for duty in Vietnam and was deployed there in January 1969.

Ms. Furey served the Department of Veterans Affairs for 30 years, in a variety of positions in nursing service, nursing administration and nursing education. As a nurse at the VA Medical Center in Bay Pines, Florida, she was very involved in the early grassroots efforts to improve health care services to both women and Vietnam veterans.

In 1989, Ms. Furey became the Associate Director for Education at the VA's newly established National Center for PTSD in Menlo Park, California. She continued her advocacy for improving VA services for women veterans, and while there, she co-founded the first inpatient PTSD treatment program for women veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs. This got the attention of the New York Times Sunday Magazine, which it included as its cover story, "How to Bandage a War."

Ms. Furey served as Director of the VA's newly established Center for Women Veterans from 1994 to 2001. She has been sought after as a consultant on many national research projects focusing on women veteran's issues, both inside the VA and in the private sector. In addition, she has received many awards – the Department of Veteran Affairs Exceptional Service Award in 2000 and the Department of Veterans' Affairs Distinguished Career Award when she retired in 2004.

Currently, Ms. Furey resides in Sayville, where she remains active in veterans' activities through Sayville Post 433 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



JOAN A. FUREY, RN, MA NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR THOMAS CROCI.





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

DONALD FIDA

Donald Fida was born on January 28, 1924, in Syracuse, New York. He enlisted in the United States Army on December 5, 1942, becoming a Private First Class in the 184th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division, deployed to the Aleutian Islands in the Central Pacific.

During World War II, Mr. Fida fought in five battles, including the invasion of the Japanese-held atoll of Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. He was assigned to the initial landings on Kwajalein, and faced unimaginable challenges to help United States forces take control of the island. The four-day Battle for Kwajalein marked the first time that American soldiers captured a Japanese-held territory during the War. The victory gave the United States a major anchorage point from which to continue operations.

After the Battle for Kwajalein, Mr. Fida went on to serve as a scout in the Philippines. It was there that he was captured, tortured and brutally wounded at the hands of Japanese soldiers. He was rescued by an American soldier from his hometown of Syracuse, and miraculously recovered from his severe wounds, regained his strength and proceeded to fight in another battle in April 1945, the 82-day long Battle of Okinawa. Mr. Fida's tremendous tenacity kept him alive and, unbelievably, kept him wanting to continue to serve.

For his wounds and immeasurable sacrifices, Mr. Fida earned the Purple Heart and several other military decorations, including the American Theater Campaign Medal, the Pacific Service Medal with Bronze Arrowhead, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 2 stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation. Upon his honorable discharge from the United States Army in 1945, Donald Fida was promoted to Sergeant.

Soon after returning home, Mr. Fida began a successful landscaping business which he operated for more than 60 years in the Syracuse area. He married and started a family, and then again served his Country during the Korean War, serving in the United States Navy before being honorably discharged in May 1953.

Though retired, Mr. Fida remains active in his community. He has two adult children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Fida continues to participate in the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and serves as a guest lecturer at various Central New York colleges.

Donald Fida's remarkable story of courage, survival and triumph as a World War II combat veteran deserves to be permanently recognized by the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame. He has distinguished himself both in military and civilian life and has made this Empire State extremely proud.



**DONALD FIDA NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

CARRIE E. TAFT

Carrie E. Taft, from the Bronx, New York, entered basic training in the Marine Corps at Paris Island, South Carolina, in November 1979. She received training in Maryland at Aberdeen Proving Ground Infantry Weapons Repair, quickly learning to excel in this military occupational skill.

Ms. Taft was assigned to duty at the Armory, Marine Barracks 8th in Washington, D.C. in 1980, and went on to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego, California, in 1982. There, she helped equip new recruits for their rifle training by issuing and repairing their assigned rifle for basic training. Due to her leadership and excellence in training, Ms. Taft received the Rifle Marksmanship Badge, the Pistol Sharpshooter Badge and the Good Conduct Medal. During service, she faced an unforeseen battle being courageously exposed by female and male veterans alike, and in 1983, she was honorably discharged at the rank of Lance Corporal.

Ms. Taft currently serves her God, church, family and community as an advocate, consultant, support group facilitator and events organizer, with the mission of promoting socioeconomic empowerment. She is active with the Gethsemane Baptist Church in the Bronx, is a member of the AIDS Institute Faith Communities Project Bronx Committee, a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Bronx branch, a life member of the National Association for Black Veterans, Inc. (NABVETS) Bronx chapter, a member of the Bronx Veterans Parade Task Team, Inc., the founder of Hope And Victory Evolves (H.A.V.E.) LLC and Gateway Community Development, Inc. Ms. Taft believes and quotes, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13 KJV).

Carrie E. Taft served her country with bravery and honor and to this day gives selflessly to her community through her activism and dedication. For this, she deserves to be recognized for her hard work and devotion to her community, her state and her nation.



CARRIE E. TAFT NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR RUBÉN DÍAZ, SR.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

NANCY MARTE

Nancy Marte is currently a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army Reserves, with numerous commendations. She has lived in Cypress Hills for 20 years, where she is an active member of the community.

Ms. Marte is committed to her Brooklyn community and to New York State, as demonstrated by her 13 years of selfless and dedicated service to the American Red Cross-Disaster Response Team. She has been recognized for her leadership skills, and has developed staff and volunteers to develop and utilize their full potential.

Ms. Marte is a board member of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation, and devotes much of her free time and efforts to co-chairing fundraising efforts and coordinating their Annual Gala.

With a sharp mind, quick action and a keen knowledge of process, Ms. Marte has helped guide her neighborhood through the City's myriad of complex issues, and resolved many problems related to service delivery, planning and building partnerships. Professionally, Ms. Marte has worked at New York Methodist Hospital as a health care administrator for 18 years.

Nancy Marte is a strong woman with remarkable skill and drive, who is always seeking opportunities to improve her community, state and nation.



NANCY MARTE WAS NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR MARTIN MALAVÉ DILAN.





Jorge M. Rodriguez unselfishly served our country in the United States Navy during the years 1994 through 2001, and served an additional three years in the Reserves.

While in the Navy, Mr. Rodriguez received the Navy Achievement Medal (NAM). Following his service, he became part of New York City's finest – the New York City Police Department – in the year 2000. Mr. Rodriguez worked at the 42 Precinct for almost 10 years. While on duty one day, Mr. Rodriguez struggled with a perpetrator during an arrest, breaking his right hand. As a result of that injury, he lost 70% of his hand strength and was forced to retire in 2009.

In addition to his years of service to the United States Navy, Mr. Rodriguez is extremely proud that he was able to retire from the NYPD with an exemplary record of zero civilian complaints and several congratulatory comments from the NYPD brass.



JORGE M. RODRIQUEZ NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR ADRIANO ESPAILLAT.





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

FRANK CASAZZA

Major Frank Casazza, of Indian Lake, volunteered for the Army Air Corp Air Cadet Program during World War II, and two weeks after graduating high school, was in basic training. On August 21, 1944, Mr. Casazza earned his wings as an Army Air Corps Navigator, at only 19 years old.

Four months later, Mr. Casazza was assigned to the 8th Air Force in the 446th Bomb Group of B-24 Heavy Bombers stationed in Bungay, England. His very first mission was to Magdeburg, Germany, where Mr. Casazza and his crew survived an intense attack from almost 200 anti-aircraft guns, their plane narrowly escaping countless bursts of flak and concussions. Tragically, he witnessed the loss of others in his squadron that fateful day. Mr. Casazza went on to fly ten successful combat missions over Germany, including one over Berlin on February 26, 1945.

After the war, Mr. Casazza remained an active member of the Air Force Reserves, went to Newark College of Engineering and began working in research. In 1952, with a strong desire to continue flying Air Force missions, he sought out an active flying reserve squadron and flew over-water missions, including regularly transporting radar equipment to Cuba. He retired from the Reserves in 1985, after 41 years of faithful service to our nation.

Frank Casazza is a proud member of American Legion Post 1392 in Indian Lake, where he currently serves as Acting Adjutant and was responsible for creating the Post's website. He is a member of the 446th Bomb Group Association and the Military Officers Association of America. In further service to his community, he has been a volunteer with youth in Little League programs as well as with the YMCA. He will be married to his loving wife, Fran, for 70 years this July, and they are the proud parents of two children.



**FRANK CASAZZA NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR HUGH T. FARLEY.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

PATRICK VECCHIO

Patrick Vecchio is a lifelong public servant who has dedicated himself to the betterment of his community and his nation for over a half a century. Mr. Vecchio's efforts on behalf of his nation began when he served as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War. Upon his honorable discharge in 1954, Mr. Vecchio continued his service by taking the oath to join the New York Police Department.

During his 20 year career as a member of the NYPD, Mr. Vecchio was chief of security for former New York City Mayor John Lindsay. In addition, he was a member of a special unit that protected visiting dignitaries including Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy.

Upon his retirement as a Detective Sergeant in 1975, Mr. Vecchio decided to continue serving his community. For two years, he served as an Assistant Director of Special Investigations at the New York State Tax Department.

In 1977, Mr. Vecchio was elected by the voters of the Town of Smithtown to serve as Supervisor. Supervisor Vecchio has been reelected by the Smithtown residents to 14 consecutive terms and is the longest tenured Supervisor in the history of Long Island. His tenure has allowed Supervisor Vecchio to enhance quality of life for the 120,000 residents of Smithtown and protect town taxpayers.

Throughout his 38 years in public office, Supervisor Vecchio has been honored by numerous groups, and is a member of multiple organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Supervisor Vecchio is a graduate of St. John's University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor at C.W. Post College.



**PATRICK VECCHIO NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOHN FLANAGAN.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

LAURA STRADLEY

Laura Stradley proudly served her nation in the United States Army from August 1996 through October 2004, leaving with a rank of Staff Sergeant E-6. She has been chosen for special recognition not just for this time of service, but for her tremendous sacrifice and commitment to the veteran's community in Monroe County and the surrounding area.

Since moving to Monroe County in 2008, Ms. Stradley has identified many different ways to help veterans. She is the Military Coordinator at Bryant and Stratton College, was a program manager at the Veterans Outreach Center and is currently the Director of the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency. Ms. Stradley has worked tirelessly to connect numerous veterans' organizations in this area, and to generate ideas and alliances that maximize and deliver resources to veterans who have earned and are in need of them.

Ms. Stradley devotes much of her free time to helping those that have served and are currently serving. She serves on the Board of the Veterans Outreach Center and the Monroe County Mental Hygiene Community Service Board. Ms. Stradley is also on the Gold Star Memorial Planning Committee and the Veterans Administration's Consumer Mental Health Council, and she holds three accreditations to file claims for veterans - American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America and the New York State Department of Veterans Affairs. Incredibly, on top of all of this, Ms. Stradley makes time to be active in her children's lives, giving almost 150 hours to the Girls Scouts as a troop leader and as a little league baseball coach.

Ms. Stradley is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She and her husband have two children and live in Penfield, where she continues to advocate for her fellow veterans and her community.



**LAURA STRADLEY NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR RICH FUNKE**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

BOB HARDER

Bob Harder entered the Air Force after high school in 1965. Following Basic Training at Lackland AFB, Texas, he was stationed at Chanutte AFB Rantoul, Illinois, where he trained as an Aircraft Electrician. After a short appointment at Homestead AFB, Florida, Mr. Harder was deployed to Vietnam, where he was stationed at the base at Tuy Hoa which was still under construction. While there, Mr. Harder worked as an aircraft electrician and his tour of duty lasted one year.

Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Harder was stationed at Travis AFB, California. After one year, he was discharged with an E4 ranking, and during his military service, he was recognized with the National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal and AF Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Harder is Captain of the Patriot Guard Riders (PGR), which provide assistance for veterans and their families. The Guard's mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the grieving family. Along with other veterans, Mr. Harder has greeted WWII veterans returning from Washington, met the bodies of veterans returning home for burial and on March 30, 2015, stood for the dedication and renaming ceremony at the Jefferson Rd. Post Office.

Mr. Harder has also been active in PGR's Help on the Homefront (HOTH) program, which assists wounded veterans and their families in need. He has been a force in raising money for HOTH by conducting an annual garage sale along with the Corvette Club of Rochester. Mr. Harder has also been involved in another HOTH program where PGR members provide used furniture for veterans returning to society and storing furniture for veterans who were returning to the hospital for additional help.

Mr. Harder has selflessly donated his time, experience and energies wherever and whenever they have been needed. This makes him a hero not only on the battlefield, but in his community and to all veterans.



**BOB HARDER NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR PATRICK M. GALLIVAN.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

ROMAN BACA

Roman Baca is a Marine Iraq War veteran and the Artistic Director of Exit 12 Dance Company. Exit 12 is a contemporary dance company, committed to creating and performing works of high cultural significance that inspire conversations about worldly differences, and the lasting effects of violence and conflict on communities, families and individuals. Through movement, Exit 12 educates audiences about the reality of war, advocates diversity and mutual understanding through cultural exchange, and champions the humanity and dignity of all people.

In 2007, after serving as a Fire-Team Leader and Machine-Gunner in Fallujah, Iraq, Mr. Baca co-founded Exit 12 Dance Company. He has choreographed several major works relating to the military and their families, and also writes and lectures about his experiences. Exit 12 Dance Company has been recognized by Time Magazine, The Village Voice, The Daily Beast, The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, The SF Chronicle, The National Endowment for the Arts Quarterly Magazine, and NPR.

As a teaching artist, Mr. Baca has traveled to work in Erbil, Iraq, and in New York City public schools, teaching young adults how to express their experiences through choreography and non-verbal expression. He has conducted veteran/civilian movement workshops that provide tools to aid veterans in the workplace and to bridge the civilian-veteran divide.

Mr. Baca is a New York City Service Platoon Member with The Mission Continues, and a Leadership Fellow with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his service and for his continued service afterward, with Exit 12 Dance Company. Mr. Baca's priorities are defined by his desire to help veterans realize their potential in the civilian world – and the impact they can make in their communities.



**ROMAN BACA WAS NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY MICHAEL GIANARIS.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

KATHERINE RAGAZZINO

Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Katherine Ragazzino joined the Marines 18 months after graduating high school. She initially worked in Administration, but became a Marine Corps Martial Arts Instructor, proficient in both lethal and non-lethal tactics, who trained and deployed with Special Operation Capable Units. Ms. Ragazzino also became a Camp Pendleton Range Inspector.

Ms. Ragazzino was deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. While in Iraq in 2004, she sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) that dramatically affected her life. Though she did her best to overcome both cognitive and physical impairments, Ms. Ragazzino's injury proved to be serious and long-lasting.

In December 2007, Ms. Ragazzino was transferred to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. At Balboa Hospital, she was placed in the Comprehensive Combat Casualty Care Center (C5) to help her with the brain injury and post-traumatic stress. For a year and a half, Ms. Ragazzino lived on hospital grounds with injured Marines and other service members as she received daily treatment. In June 2009, she was Honorably Discharged and Medically Retired from the Marines.

While Ms. Ragazzino was receiving treatment at the Naval Medical Center, the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund Organization reached out to her; she became a core member on Team Semper Fi and was given the opportunity to go on an expedition to Nepal in 2010 with Soldiers To Summits. This amazing opportunity changed her life in a spiritual way that she had never felt before. This journey of change was filmed, and the documentary "High Ground" was released in early 2012.

Upon her return, many ongoing circumstances lead Katherine and her service dog to become homeless for close to a year. She lived in her car with her dog, Daisy. It is because of the Semper Fi Fund and their supporters, however, that she is thriving today. While with the Semper Fi Fund, she was introduced to Friends of Firefighters, who became her host organization, through The Mission Continues.

Friends of Firefighters is dedicated to addressing the physical, mental health and wellness needs of New York City's firefighters and their families. Their ongoing mission is to provide long-term support and services through confidential counseling, wellness services and other assistance required by firefighters and their families. Ms. Ragazzino opens the door to further awareness and bridges the two communities of military and civilian together, making mental health services more palatable and, therefore, more accessible to the firefighters.



**KATHERINE RAGAZZINO NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR MARTIN J. GOLDEN.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JOSEPH T. FRACCOLA

Joseph T. Fraccola proudly served his nation upon being drafted into the United States Army in September 1968. A Vietnam War Veteran, recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received during an enemy rocket attack on the 7th of June, 1969 while serving with Company E Troop Command, 5th Maintenance Battalion, located in the U.S. Armed Forces II Corps Region of South Vietnam. He reached the Rank of SP/5 during his 2 year commitment to the U.S. Draft finishing his duty at Fort Sill, OK.

Upon completing his military duty with the U.S. Army, he went on to work for the U.S. Postal Service in Utica, NY serving over 36 years, retiring in 2005. While working at the Utica, NY Post Office, he was involved with many U.S. postage veterans' stamp related events, making presentations and speaking to many veterans' organizations. Joe co-chaired the Utica Post Office Veterans' Committee leading to the placement of the "All American Veterans' Monument" and brick walkway honoring all veterans. He also worked to petition Congress to rename 2 area Post Offices for local soldiers killed in Iraq (U.S. Army CPT George A. Wood-Utica Post Office and U.S. Army CPL. John P. Sigsbee-Waterville Post Office). He also help with placement of the "Gold Star Mothers" Monument located at the Utica Post Office.

Over the course of the past 10 years Joe has organized an annual "Well-Wish Visit" to Walter Reed National Military Hospital, Fisher Houses and Arlington Cemetery to visit with wounded troops and their families, provide recognition and funding and to pay respects to our departed patriots buried in Arlington Cemetery. The most memorable honor was when he was a participant in laying a wreath at the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier". Joe was also highly involved with the Oneida County World War II Veterans Trip Committee sending over 850 WW II Veterans on an overnight trip to visit their World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

For many years he has served on the Utica, NY annual Memorial Day Parade and Wreath laying Committee while honoring *Our Past to Ensure Our Future*. He has been a veterans' advocate since his military service. He served on past Congressman Michael Arcuri's Veterans Advisory Committee and presently is serving on Congressman Richard Hanna's Veterans Advisory Committee. Joe requested and help establish that the 22nd Congressional NY District be recognized as a Purple Heart Congressional District, which became the first Congressional District in the nation. He also led the way in getting Broome, Green, Herkimer, and Oneida Counties along with the Cities of Utica, NY and Rome, NY to become Purple Heart Counties and Cities.

Joe is a member of the CNY Chapter 490 Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, Utica Chapter 944, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 82, VFW Post 6001, American Legion New Hartford Post 1376, Masonic War Veterans, Battle of Oriskany Post 55, Masonic Lodge 64, and BPOE Utica Elks Lodge 33(having received 2 Distinguished Citizenship Awards).

He resides in New Hartford, NY with his wife of 43 years, Lorraine and has a daughter, Kristen & son-in-law Matt Betzenhauser, and granddaughter, Isabella Betzenhauser.



**JOSEPH T. FRACCOLA NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOSEPH A. GRIFFO.**



ROBERT TAITT

For far too long in American history, veterans have had to suffer the agony of countless untold stories – stories of heroism and obstacles overcome, like that of the Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers – stories from aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers, friends and neighbors, stories passed down through generations that did not make their way into the history books and stories of what it has meant to serve our country.

Robert Taitt is a veteran of such stories. He migrated to New York City from St. Thomas parish in Barbados, seeking a better life. Mr. Taitt struggled growing up to provide for his family, working double shifts for many years. Growing up as a third generation Barbadian, he knew the value of hard work and appreciated opportunity. Mr. Taitt served our country bravely in the United States Army during the country's most difficult times.

The freedoms and principles that we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military during times of conflict, and so it is fitting and proper that we never forget the courage with which these men and women have served. Our nation's veterans, like Robert Taitt, deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their military service and for their dedication to their nation.



ROBERT TAITT NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JESSE HAMILTON.





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

FRANCISCO MUNIZ III

Francisco Muniz III is a tireless and determined veteran's advocate. He was born in Puerto Rico, the son of a World War II United States Army veteran, and grew up in New York City. During his junior year in college, Mr. Muniz was drafted by the United States Army, and he served nobly.

Mr. Muniz completed his Basic Training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, in 1964, and his AIT at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Division "Big Red One," and was deployed to Vietnam, where he served with distinction. Mr. Muniz was honorably discharged in 1966, with the rank of Specialist-4.

In 1980, Mr. Muniz joined the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #82 of Hicksville, New York, where he immediately and over the years, took on a variety of officer and board positions. Since 2005, he has served as the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council, in addition to his many other commitments.

Based on some personal combat experiences, Mr. Muniz embodies the phrase, "Never again will one generation of veterans forget another." He has won numerous awards for veterans' advocacy on national, state and local levels, for both his service and his writings.

Mr. Muniz is a founding member of the Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island, a coalition of agencies that provide outreach, advocacy and training to veterans and their families. Today, he serves as a peer facilitator for the Nassau County PFC Dwyer Project, providing Vet2Vet Peer Support to veterans of all generations.

Francisco Muniz has not only served his nation greatly overseas, but also on our soil. He has devoted his life to make sure that his fellow veterans get what they deserve and worked so hard for – and that they are never forgotten.



**FRANCISCO MUNIZ III NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR KEMP HANNON.**





CALVIN PARKER

Corporal Calvin Parker nobly fought in the Vietnam War from 1966 until 1967, as a proud and brave member of the United States Marine Corps.

Corporal Parker completed his basic training at Parris Island and was a qualified sharpshooter. After nobly serving in Vietnam, Corporal Parker was employed at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, where his responsibilities included supervising, inspecting and briefing guards pertaining to the day-to-day activities of the Armed Forces compound.

Corporal Parker received his Bachelor of Science in Security Management from John Jay College and was employed as a Senior Security Officer at the United Nations for many years. During his tenure at the United Nations, he was awarded letters of commendation by the United States Department of State for his outstanding work ethic and dedication.

Corporal Parker has received numerous awards, including the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal and the National Service Defense Medal. In addition, Corporal Parker is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Corporal Parker is the proud father of two children, a grandfather of six grandchildren and an active member of the Mount Vernon Peacekeepers – always working for the safety of his family and his country.



CALVIN PARKER NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR RUTH HASSELL-THOMPSON.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

MILTON NUSSDORF

Milton Nussdorf, 96, attended DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx and Manhattan's City College, where he received a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology in 1942. Following his graduation, he entered the Navy Selective Service where he held a position as Personnel Manager in a Defense Plant in Brooklyn owned by General Electric.

In 1944, upon his completion of Basic Training, he was assigned to Brooklyn Naval Hospital, where he provided occupational therapy and rehabilitation counseling to Naval Veterans injured in the line of duty during World War II. During the War he was also assigned to Naval Hospitals throughout the U.S. to counsel disabled Naval personnel. Milton served in the Navy until the War's conclusion in 1945, after which he continued working as a rehabilitation counselor in private practice.

From 1950 to 1955, Milton worked as a Counselor/Psychologist at the VA in Manhattan, where he assisted Veterans with physical and mental limitations incurred during their service reintegrate into society. From 1955 until his retirement in 1968, Milton was a Counselor and Psychologist in private practice.

Milton is happily retired and lives in Manhattan's Peter Cooper Village, the middle-class housing complex built by Met Life for returning veterans. He is an original resident of its sister complex, Stuyvesant Town, where he lived upon its opening in 1948. He has a daughter, Gail, who also lives in Peter Cooper Village, and a son, Paul.

For his continued dedication and service to his country and the veterans community, Milton Nussdorf is richly deserving of his place in the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame.



MILTON NUSSDORF NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

RUSSELL A. GUTHRIE

Russell A. Guthrie, a lifelong resident of the City of Buffalo, honorably served in the United States Army during World War II. As a Sergeant First Class and Tank Gunner, Mr. Guthrie was assigned to the legendary 761st Tank Battalion, the first armored unit of African American soldiers to see combat in World War II. Known as the "Black Panthers," the unit's extraordinary bravery and heroism was recognized by General George S. Patton and became known additionally as "Patton's Panthers." As a member of the 761st, Mr. Guthrie participated in four major Allied campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge and D-Day.

Mr. Guthrie was honored for his service with a Purple Heart, a Meritorious Unit Citation, and a Good Conduct Medal. In addition, President Jimmy Carter properly recognized Mr. Guthrie's outstanding service with a Presidential Unit Citation (Army) for Extraordinary Heroism.

Mr. Guthrie continued to serve his beloved Western New York community long after his honorable discharge. Mr. Guthrie was a lifelong member of the American Legion, American Veterans, and the United Veterans of Buffalo until his passing on July 5th, 2014.

Russell A. Guthrie was a true hero, fighting for, and believing in, the value of all American lives long before he and his unit were given the same recognition. We are immensely grateful for and eternally indebted to his service.



RUSSELL A. GUTHRIE NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

ANALIZA BENJAMIN

Analiza Benjamin joined the United States Naval Reserve in 1997, the United States Navy Nurse Corps in 2008 and the United States Navy Reserve-Nurse Corps in 2012. It was always her dream to work as a nurse – and to serve her nation – by helping her fellow soldiers in the line of fire get the care they need. Ms. Benjamin served bravely and courageously, sacrificing her own safety for the safety of her nation.

In 2012, Ms. Benjamin was mobilized and deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan. There, she served as Senior Nurse Mentor to Afghanistan Army's National Military Hospital; she started out at such a high ranking position due to her extensive experience in the medical field and experience with the military. As Senior Nurse Corps Officer, Ms. Benjamin worked as Senior Nurse Advisor to the Afghanistan National Army's Chief of Nursing. She also collaborated with the United States Navy, other branches of the military and international military partners to educate and train the Afghan population. Ms. Benjamin conducted numerous training sessions and presentations about patient safety, quality of patient care and important topics on how they can attain and self-sustain a quality health care. She also generated and authored the first Pharmacology/Medication book/reference for Afghanistan's Nursing Department, and had it translated in Dari, the Afghan language.

In 2013, Ms. Benjamin was transferred to OSHU Portsmouth Detachment A, NOSC New York City, with the rank of Captain. There, she was responsible for the overall performance and function of the Nurse Corps Department, ensuring proper communication of information among clinical personnel and certain military liaison/personnel.

Members of the Armed Forces, who served so valiantly and honorably in times of conflict when our country's freedoms were at stake, deserve a special salute from the representatives of the State of New York. Our nation's veterans, like Analiza Benjamin, deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked for their military service and their dedication to their nation.



**ANALIZA BENJAMIN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JEFFREY D. KLEIN.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

PATSY J. SCARPATO

A native Staten Islander, Patsy (Pat) J. Scarpato attended PS 23 and PS 44 in Mariners Harbor. He graduated from Port Richmond High School in 1948, got a job and went to Brooklyn College at night. While attending college he received his draft notice to report for induction on June 25, 1951.

After basic training and advanced infantry training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, he completed a leaders course in February 1952 and was promoted to Corporal. While leading a class there, Pat received orders to go to Ft. Benning, Georgia to be enrolled in OCS where he graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the Infantry School on September 12, 1952.

From there he went to Camp Atterbury, Indiana where he taught machine guns for 5 months and was then sent to Korea where he joined E Co. 65th Inf. Rgt, 3rd Inf. Div. in combat.

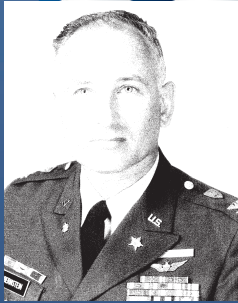
As a combat infantry platoon leader, Pat led many patrols and engaged in major battles at OP Harry where he was wounded in action. After hospitalization he returned to his unit and led his platoon at the Battle for Kumsong. Perhaps the last big battle of the war in 1953.

Pat received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service against an armed entry, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with two (2) battle stars, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Medal, the NYS Conspicuous Service Cross, the NYS Conspicuous Service Star, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Ambassador of Peace Medal from the President of Korea and several others.

Pat is a member of several veterans' groups such as the Cpl. Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of Korean War Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Mariners Harbor VFW, the Watkins-Kellet American Legion, the DAV, The Combat Infantry Association and the 3rd Division Infantry Association.



**PATSY J. SCARPATO NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR ANDREW J. LANZA.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

DONALD BERNSTEIN

Colonel Donald Bernstein is a decorated military veteran with many educational accomplishments. He has served his community and his nation throughout his entire life, and even following his military career, Mr. Bernstein has been dedicated to supporting others and honoring our veterans.

Mr. Bernstein was on active duty for 27 years, 1957-1984, where he served in the infantry, was an army aviator and a Mohawk multi-engine instructor pilot. He served in two Vietnam flying tours and two Germany tours with bravery and honor, never turning down a job, and efficiently and effectively carrying out orders. As a result, he received many commendations for his service, including the Senior Parachute Badge – 47 jumps, the Infantryman Badge, the Senior Flight Wings and the Expert Infantryman's Badge.

Mr. Bernstein enjoys teaching his fellow soldiers as much as he did fighting with them. He taught between the years of 1986-2013, serving as a United States Army Cadet Command certified JROTC Instructor and Senior Army Instructor for Valley Central High School in the Town of Montgomery. Mr. Bernstein also helped establish JROTC programs in Washingtonville and James I. O'Neill High Schools.

Mr. Bernstein is an ardent supporter of many local veterans' organizations, including the American Legion, VFW and Vietnam Vets. He is actively involved in the Orange County Veterans Coalition and Orange County Veterans Service Agency, and has served his community as an adjunct instructor at several local prisons.

Donald I. Bernstein retired with the rank of Colonel in the United States Army, receiving numerous awards, badges and medals which commemorate his unwavering dedication to his country and to teaching his fellow soldiers.



**DONALD BERNSTEIN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR BILL LARKIN.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JOSEPH D. BLANCK

Joseph D. Blanck entered the United States Army in July 1964. Upon completion of Airborne School in December 1964, he was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group (Abn) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In May 1966, Mr. Blanck went to South Vietnam, assigned to the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon of the 101st Airborne Division, and graduated from the 101st Airborne Division. In October 1968, Mr. Blanck left the United States Army after serving bravely in South Vietnam for thirty months.

Mr. Blanck is the recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachute Badge, the South Vietnam Parachute Badge, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star, and one Bronze Service Star, among many others. He has been honored by the Secretary of the Army as a Distinguished Member of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

In March 1973, Mr. Blanck entered the New York City Police Department. He was promoted to Detective in May 1982, Sergeant in March 1987 and Lieutenant in June 1990, retiring in January 2001 after 28 years of service. Mr. Blanck was awarded 106 NYPD departmental medals during his career, and received numerous plaques, awards, certificates and letters of commendation from the community, civic associations, government and law enforcement organizations. Due to his dedication and service to his country – and his to his community – Mr. Blanck has always been recognized for his hard work and tireless allegiance.

Always staying involved and helping wherever needed, Mr. Blanck is a member of the American Legion, 101st Airborne Division Association, 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Combat Infantry Association, 101st Airborne Division LRRP-Ranger Association and the Society of the Vietnamese Airborne. He has biked from Boston, Massachusetts to New York City and back, in order to raise funds for the families of slain law enforcement officers. Mr. Blanck's commitment to those in need is evident in his unwavering enthusiasm and involvement with his community and nation.

Mr. Blanck has dedicated his life to the betterment and safety of those around him, and to his country as a whole. He will never be adequately thanked for his sacrifice and his service, going beyond the call of duty.



**JOSEPH D. BLANCK NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR GEORGE LATIMER.**



GEORGE R. SULLIVAN

George R. Sullivan has distinguished himself both in military and civilian life with meritorious service to our nation. He was accepted at Iona College in 1962, where he graduated cum laude with a B.B.A. in Accounting. While at Iona, he was elected to the National Honor Society, as well as Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. During the summers of 1963 and 1965, Mr. Sullivan successfully completed the Platoon Leaders Class Program and received his commission in the United States Marine Corps in June 1966.

Following graduation from basic training, Mr. Sullivan was assigned to ground forces in the former Republic of Vietnam and assumed command of a rifle platoon with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment. During Operation Prairie II, he sustained wounds in an engagement with North Vietnamese forces, and as a result of those injuries, Mr. Sullivan's left leg was amputated above the knee. He retired from military service in October 1967 and was awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest decoration. Mr. Sullivan's war injury did not deter him in the slightest, as is evident in his many successful pursuits following his military career.

Mr. Sullivan continued his education, receiving an M.B.A. from New York University Graduate Business School. He then attended Fordham University Law School, where he served as Class President. Mr. Sullivan pursued a career in public accounting, and after working with a leading international firm, commenced his own practice in 1971. In addition, Mr. Sullivan formed an investment advisory firm in 1995. He taught as an adjunct professor of accounting on the faculty of Suffolk Community College, has served as an elected official of the Town of Southold for 16 years, and currently holds the office of Receiver of Taxes.

Mr. Sullivan has been active in both veteran and community endeavors. He was a principal in the construction of the Suffolk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, serving as Co-Chairman on the Finance Committee. Mr. Sullivan is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion and Marine Corps League, and continues to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Suffolk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission. George Sullivan embodies the American life, character and spirit that qualifies him for membership in the New York Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame.



**GEORGE R. SULLIVAN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR KENNETH P. LAVALLE.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

GEORGE "LEE" PENNEY

George "Lee" Penney of Apalachin, New York was a member of the US Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) and later served in the 9th Bomb Group during World War II. During the war he was a proud member of the 99th Squadron, which descended from the 99th Aero Squadron of WW I fame.

At the peak of World War II, Lee Penney and his Squadron were based on the island of Tinian, made famous by the heroic assault and capture by United States Marines during the summer of 1944. Tinian later became a launching point for US Army Air Corps B-29 heavy bombers commencing their attacks on the Japanese home islands.

While he did not know it at the time, he witnessed the loading of what was later disclosed as the atomic bomb aboard the B-29 Enola Gay as it began its mission that initiated the end of the carnage and savagery of World War II.

During his Army years, he was trained to repair aircraft computers and he later applied his skills working for IBM Corporation.

Later in life Lee Penney settled in Owego, NY and was the owner of The Hub, a longtime store in Owego.

Lee Penney served his community for several years as a Councilman in the Town of Owego and as a member of the Tioga County Legislature.

On February 6, 2015, Lee Penney passed away at his home in Apalachin. He will be forever remembered by his wife of 69 years Helen Penney, the New York State Senate, and an American nation grateful for his service to his country.



**GEORGE PENNEY NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR THOMAS W. LIBOUS.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

BENJAMIN OSBORN

As a fourth-grader, Benjamin Osborn early on showed a keen interest in Operation Desert Storm. On September 11, 2001, as a high school teen, he watched, horrified, as his home state's Twin Towers fell and 3,000 people died on United States soil. Benjamin Osborn knew he had to do something, so he volunteered to join the United States Army's Combat Infantry in April 2007.

After graduation from basic training, Mr. Osborn went to Vilseck, Germany, and from there he deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Cavalry Stryker Regiment. After his 15 month deployment to Iraq, he returned to Vilseck and trained vigorously for admittance to the Army's elite Ranger program, but an emergency appendectomy and recovery prevented his timely return to the states.

Fort Campbell, Kentucky, became Mr. Osborn's home base in August 2009, where he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). His second deployment with this Division was to Afghanistan, in April 2010.

Mr. Osborn earned many medals and awards from 2007 to 2010, including his most prized medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge. He received the Expert Marksmanship Medal, the Army Commemorative Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal, among many others, for his hard work and dedication to his country.

On June 15, 2010, Mr. Osborn gave the ultimate sacrifice for his nation, during combat in the Shigalwashheltan district of Konar, Afghanistan. He sustained fatal wounds when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fires. Mr. Osborn was only twenty-seven years old. Words cannot express the gratitude of our country for his sacrifice and his complete disregard for his own safety in order to protect our freedom.

Army SPC Benjamin D. Osborn obtained the rank of Corporal posthumously, after paperwork had been started for his promotion in May 2010. His final awards given posthumously were The Bronze Star and The Purple Heart.



**BENJAMIN OSBORN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR ELIZABETH O'C. LITTLE.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

BEN FARNAN

While deployed with the United States Army in Yon Chon, North Korea, in September 1952, lifelong Glen Cove resident Ben Farnan's reconnaissance unit was ambushed by Chinese soldiers. Separated from their leader, the groups' lives were instantly put in the hands of the then 20-year-old soldier.

While serving, Mr. Farnan, who would later become the commissioner of Glen Cove's Public Safety, took charge of the patrol under enemy fire and moved his soldiers from a water ravine to higher ground. "The Chinese threw a grenade at us," he said. "None of us were hurt, but we were blown back. We moved up to cover, and from there, we sustained ourselves, and our lives."

Mr. Farnan was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for his selfless act. He also received the Silver Star for recovering a wounded soldier from the middle of a minefield in the Chorwon Valley. With a daring strategy, he made his footsteps wide enough so that a medic could follow with a stretcher.

Years ago, the Army Military Records Department experienced a fire, and all the Korean morning reports from September through October 1952 were destroyed. Ben Farnan has been searching for many years for these reports and for the men who were with him at that time. His dedication to his men and his nation display an unprecedented level of bravery and selflessness.



**BEN FARNAN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR CARL L. MARCELLINO.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

STEPHEN DENNIS

Stephen Dennis enlisted in the Navy at the age of 19, four days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He arrived in the Hawaiian Islands just four months later. Assigned to the USS Atlanta, he soon saw action at Coral Sea. On June 4, 1942, the Atlanta was in the decisive Battle of Midway Island. On November 13, the Atlanta was the lead American ship at Iron Bottom Sound on Guadalcanal, taking a direct hit from a torpedo and being hammered by 49 shells. Eight hours later, having lost one hundred seventy-two men with 79 more wounded, the Atlanta went down. Steve and the rest of the surviving sailors were evacuated from the stricken vessel.

Steve was subsequently assigned to serve as a PT boat radioman off the Island of Tulagi. After two years he was assigned to the USS Ancon as a radio operator, and served in the amphibious invasion of Okinawa. On September 2, 1945, he witnessed the formal surrender ceremony, which took place aboard the battleship USS Missouri. He had the momentous task of radioing the news of the surrender back to the United States.

He was honorably discharged in November 1945 and returned to Mechanicville. He married his wife, Mary, on May 5, 1946, raised three children, and has five granddaughters, one grandson and is a great-grandfather. He worked 31 years at the Westvaco Pulp and Paper plant in Mechanicville. Stephen Dennis is an active member of the American Legion Post #91.

In August 2014, he celebrated his 92nd birthday and just two days prior, he was presented with the Medals he earned for his service to our nation in World War II. These included the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Two Bronze Stars, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Combat Action Ribbon and 5 Battle Stars. In 2014, Steve was also awarded his High School diploma which he missed out on when he left school three months prior to graduation. He now has the distinction of being a member of the Class of 2014!



**STEPHEN DENNIS NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR KATHLEEN A. MARCHIONE.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

THOMAS SCARDINO AND RAY VAZ

Thomas Scardino and Ray Vaz are close friends who share a love for their country, a commitment to service and a bond unlike most others.

Both Mr. Scardino and Mr. Vaz were part of the Allied forces which stormed the beaches of France on D-Day. They landed at Utah Beach as members of the U.S. Army's 90th Infantry Division and fought fiercely against heavy enemy resistance, both on the shoreline and in subsequent fighting throughout France. Each was wounded twice; Mr. Scardino was struck by a German bullet and hit by shrapnel during fierce fighting in Battle of St. Lo. Mr. Vaz was shot by a German sniper during the Battle of Normandy and later hit by artillery shrapnel while fighting to cross the Mosselle River in Germany after liberating the Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

For their brave and devoted service, Mr. Scardino and Mr. Vaz each earned the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Following his military service, Mr. Scardino went to work in the garment industry, first as a tailor with his father and later running his own factory. He was also a professional bowler. Mr. Vaz had a long and successful career in sales.

Both men are longtime residents of Mineola and are members of Mineola VFW Post 1305, where they have worked to help their fellow veterans. Mr. Scardino and his wife, Flora, have six children, 14 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Mr. Vaz and his wife, Ann, have three children, seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.



**THOMAS SCARDINO AND RAY VAZ NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JACK M. MARTINS.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

JAMES EDWARD BLAKELY

James Edward Blakely, a native of Thabas, Arkansas, joined the United States Navy in September 1939. He is a true World War II hero. Members of the armed forces like Mr. Blakely, who serve so valiantly and honorably in times of conflict when our country's freedoms are at stake, deserve special recognition from all residents of our nation. For his service, Mr. Blakely cannot be sufficiently extolled for his dedication and service to his nation.

Mr. Blakely served with courage and dignity, earning the Unit Commendation from the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. He also received Commendations for the Iwo Jima and Lingayen Gulf campaigns.

James Blakely served admirably with the rank of United States Navy Cook First Class.



JAMES EDWARD BLAKELY NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR VELMANETTER MONTGOMERY.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

MARC COVIELLO

Marc Coviello is attending Westchester Community College and is planning on earning a four year degree in Political Science. He is the first member of his family to serve in the military.

Mr. Coviello joined the United States Army, and began Infantry OSUT at Fort Benning, Georgia, on February 15, 2010. Upon graduation from Infantry OSUT, he was assigned to 3-8 CAV, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. In January 2011, Mr. Coviello deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn. During his tour, he served as a rifleman in an infantry fire team and as driver for a Bradley infantry fighting vehicle.

Mr. Coviello's main mission in Iraq was to conduct stability operations, focusing on advising, assisting and training Iraqi security forces. Upon redeployment from Iraq back to Garrison, Mr. Coviello was promoted to specialist and was placed into a team leader position. Later, he was promoted to Sergeant, and was the youngest Sergeant in his entire battalion at that time. Mr. Coviello worked hard and, due to his perseverance and intelligence, deserved to move up quickly.

After being promoted to Sergeant, Mr. Coviello was reassigned to 1-32 INF, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and was immediately placed in a squad leader position. A small group of infantryman was selected to be assigned to an Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA) team from 3rd Special Forces group to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Coviello was one of them. Their mission was to train, equip, advise and assist Afghan Special Forces in order to deter insurgent presence in their area of operation. During his time in Afghanistan, Mr. Coviello served as a Designated Marksman with a SR-25 Sniper Rifle, and also as a turret gunner with a MK19.

Mr. Coviello received an Army Commendation Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart medal on February 10, 2014. He also received the Combat Infantry Badge, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal, among others.

Upon returning home, Mr. Coviello was determined to continue to serve his country and look out for his brothers. In short order, he founded the Hudson Valley Hero Project, whose mission is such - "Our energy is devoted to supporting the service members and veterans in the Hudson Valley region of New York. By supporting our heroes we not only strengthen our veterans but our community as well."



**MARC COVIELLO NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR TERENCE P. MURPHY.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JAMES A. DURKIN

James Durkin entered the United States Marine Corps in April 1974, and was discharged in May 1984. He was attached to Marine Air squadron VAMQ-2 for nine years, and during this time he was dispatched to the USS Midway, USS Nimitz and other carriers in the fleet. Mr. Durkin received his Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) eligibility during the Iran Hostage Crisis, when he earned The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal. For gratitude for his service, he received 3 Marine Good Conduct Medals, 2 Marine Corps Unit Commendations, 2 Navy Meritorious Unit Commendations, 5 Sea Service Ribbons and the Marine Corps Recruiting Medal.

Mr. Durkin has been part of the VFW since 1980, and is currently a member at Post 7414 in Canandaigua, New York, where he has been an All State Commander and All State Quartermaster three times. He is Co-Dean of the VFW Officer Training Institute, and spends most of his fall weekends teaching other veterans the correct way to support their veterans, veterans' families, their communities and posts. Mr. Durkin has also been a key member of the National Legislative Team traveling to Washington, D.C. to ensure that veterans' voices are heard.

In addition to his VFW duties, Mr. Durkin spent the last 30 years working full time for the Gleason Works in Rochester, New York. He was hired as lead electrical engineer and was the first electrical engineer to head up all of Engineering. Mr. Durkin also spent six years on the Greater Rochester International Business Council, including one year as president and one year as board chairman. During his tenure on the board, the Great Rochester IBC increased product shipments from \$12 billion to \$16 billion, and increased member companies from 2000 to 2400. His dedication and work ethic has contributed to not only the good of the country, but of his community as well.

James Durkin married his best friend, Barbara Jane MacDonald, and has one beautiful daughter, Elizabeth. He remains active in his community, advocating for his fellow veterans as part of the American Legion, Marine Corps League, the Association of Old Crows and as a Life Member of the DAV.



**JAMES A. DURKIN NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

TIMOTHY GILES SERWINOWSKI

Timothy Giles Serwinowski was born on December 22, 1988 in North Tonawanda, NY.

As Tim grew up it was very clear that he was a very determined young man. If Tim wanted something he went after it with everything he had in him to achieve his goal. When Tim was young he loved to read and draw. He loved a wide variety of music and it was a constant in his life; he was teaching himself to play the guitar and he loved to sing all the time! Tim was an avid soccer player for many years.

As Tim entered into his high school years, he started playing football and fell in love with the game and the bond that he formed with his team members. After one year of college, in May of 2008, he decided to join the Marines; it seemed the natural thing for him to do. He found the same camaraderie that he had during his football years.

Tim strived to do his very best as a Marine and was very proud to be one. Tim was deployed to Afghanistan in January of 2010, and was involved in the invasion of Marjah in February of that same year. Tim was an Infantry Assaultman 0351; his job was to patrol on foot and he walked many miles to keep his fellow Marines, and the people of Afghanistan, safe.

Sadly, Timothy was shot and killed in Marjah on June 21st 2010, at the age of 21. Tim's Battalion lost eight other brave Marines during that deployment. Tim was a Purple Heart recipient, as well as receiving the Honorable Service Award and the Conspicuous Service Cross.

Tim is missed every day and will be remember as a Hero forever.



**TIMOTHY GILES SERWINOWSKI NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR ROBERT ORT.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

SERGEANT DAVID LAWRENCE ROUSTUM

Army Sergeant David L. Roustum (Age 22) was killed in action on November 20th, 2004 when his armored Humvee was attacked by enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Roustum was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, and attached to the 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood Texas. Sergeant Roustum received the Bronze Star with V, two Army Commendation Medals for previous actions, the Purple Heart, and the coveted Combat Infantry badge.

When David was called to active duty, he was following his older brother, Dan, into the military. His concerned Syrian-born father suggested his son could avoid combat by going to Syria. But Russ Roustum said his son would have none of it. Army Sergeant David L. Roustum was killed in action on November 20th, 2004 when his armored Humvee was attacked by enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Roustum was 22 years old. Three mothers of soldiers who were injured in the attack told Roustum's parents, Russ and Jennifer, that they believe David Roustum saved their sons' lives.

Sergeant Roustum was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, and attached to the 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood Texas. Sergeant Roustum received the Bronze Star with V, two Army Commendation Medals for previous actions, the Purple Heart, and the coveted Combat Infantry badge.

Sergeant Roustum was unmarried and had no children when he was killed in action. He is survived by his mother Jennifer, his father Russ, a brother and two nieces and a nephew.



**DAVID LAWRENCE ROUSTUM NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR MARC PANEPINTO.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

DEBORAH BOURNE-ALLEY

Deborah Bourne-Alley joined the United States Army in 1990. On the momentous day of August 2, 1990, when she commenced her basic training, the international conflict known as the Gulf War was triggered by the invasion of Iraq by Kuwait. Coincidentally, years later, this was the day she chose to be married.

Ms. Bourne-Alley joined the military to travel, experience life from a new perspective and to be exposed to different cultures. These wishes were soon realized when she was mobilized during Operation Desert Storm to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and again in 1996 when she was deployed to Germany in support of the Bosnia Conflict. Ms. Bourne-Alley was exposed to culture in a much different way than any civilian, sacrificing her life to do so.

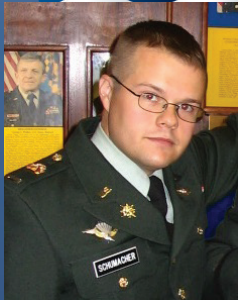
After her 13 years of service, Ms. Bourne-Alley graduated from Brooklyn College with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She worked with the New York State Insurance Department where she audited insurance companies, pursued a career as an entrepreneur in real estate and mortgages, and then went back into the accounting field. Currently, Ms. Bourne-Alley serves as the Chief Financial Officer at Tabernacle of Praise, Brooklyn, New York.

Deborah Bourne-Alley is very proud of her 13 years of service, discipline and dedication to the United States Army and her nation. She fought bravely for the freedom and security of her country, and gained a lifelong experience that can never be matched.



DEBORAH BOURNE-ALLEY NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR KEVIN S. PARKER.





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JOEL SCHUMACHER

Joel Schumacher is a native of the Capital District and a resident of Jackson Heights in Queens, New York. In high school, he was active in La Salle Institute's JROTC program, and he enlisted as a Private in the United States Army Reserves days after his 17th birthday – a very brave young man.

Shortly after completing Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Mr. Schumacher was appointed to the United States Military Academy, where he rose to become Regimental Executive Officer. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2003, and went on to study International Relations at the University of Cambridge, writing his Master's Thesis on military personnel policy and counterinsurgency operations. He then served as a staff officer in the 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, the unit responsible for training junior officers in the MI Corps. He performed his tasks for the nation with intelligence, diligence and respect.

Upon leaving military service as a First Lieutenant, Mr. Schumacher dedicated himself to teaching. Eager to share his enthusiasm for American history and government, he taught courses on Writings of the Founding Fathers, Political Theory, and American Public Policy to students in Latin America and to United States military personnel.

With the hope of returning to government service, Mr. Schumacher enrolled in Yale Law School. During his final year, he was hired by United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to work as Constituent Liaison for Military and Veterans Affairs, a position which he currently holds. Mr. Schumacher assists America's veterans and military personnel by acting as an advocate for them before the federal agencies. He also directs the Senator's service academy nomination process and conducts outreach with military and veteran organizations across New York State.

Mr. Schumacher's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Parachutist Badge, the French Airborne Badge, the French Forces Commando Badge and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

Joel Schumacher is an intelligent and honorable soul, who deserves to be recognized to this day for his achievements and promotions within the United States military – and also for his work as a civilian, educating the youth of his community and advocating for veterans and their rights.



**JOEL SCHUMACHER NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOSE R. PERALTA.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

BARBARA J. EXUM

Barbara J. Exum enlisted in the United States Air Force on April 27, 1977. Upon completion of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, she was assigned as a Materiel Facilities Specialist.

Ms. Exum's first duty station was the 96th Supply Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. While there, she supported the 96th Bombardment Wing, identifying and inspecting property prior to issuing to maintenance activities to ensure that the bomb wing was able to meet their missions on time.

Throughout her military career, Ms. Exum was stationed at the following bases: Kunsan Air Base, Korea; George Air Force Base, Victorville, California; McGuire Air Force Base, Wrightstown, New Jersey; Suwon Air Base, Korea; Howard Air Force Base, Panama; Minot Air Force Base, Minot, North Dakota; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

In 1984, Ms. Exum deployed to Goose Bay Air Force Base in Labrador, Canada. In that capacity, she performed shelf life inspection of dated items and retrieved samples for laboratory testing in order to prevent deterioration and permit maximum use of dated assets in war reserve spare kits.

On April 17, 1996, Ms. Exum deployed to Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation Southern Watch. There, she coordinated with maintenance on accruing reparable components, periodic component exchanges and acquisition materials required for equipment modification. As a result, the early warning aircraft were able to fly their sorties without interruptions in support of the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. Ms. Exum was also stationed at Khobar Towers at the time of the bombing, and for her dedication to the mission she received the Expeditionary Medal.

After 20 years of service, Barbara J. Exum retired from the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Technical Sergeant. She is a member of Traveler Rest Baptist Church in New York City.



**BARBARA J. EXUM NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR PERKINS.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JOHN L. MOSHER

John L. Mosher is a distinguished United States Army World War II veteran. After being drafted in March 1945, he dutifully reported to basic training in Blanding, Florida. From there, he sailed to Naples, Italy, as a Rifleman and Mortar Gunner in Company H of the 88th Division of the 350th Regiment. Later, Mr. Mosher served in Tarcento, Italy, as a post-war peacekeeper on the Yugoslavian border. He was discharged in December 1946 as a Private 1st Class.

Mr. Mosher was awarded for his sacrifice and honor in the field with numerous medals and ribbons, including the Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Theater Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon.

Mr. Mosher has a personal motto which has guided him during his military service and beyond – “God put us here to help others.” For 45 years, he has been active with the American Legion Post 838 in various roles, from Post Commander to Post Board of Directors. Each and every year, he participates in both the Clarence Memorial Day Parade and the Clarence Center Fireman’s Labor Day Parade.

Mr. Mosher was active with the Clarence JCs, Clarence Chamber of Commerce and Clarence Center Citizens Sewer Task Force. He has been President of St. John’s Lutheran Home for Children for 10 years, serving as a board member for 43 years. He has been instrumental in developing a Continuum Care Community at Niagara Lutheran Health Center, which provides great value to his community.

John Mosher is a resident of Clarence. He and his late wife, Althea, have three children – Linda, David and Carol – as well as six grandchildren and one great-grandson.



**JOHN L. MOSHER NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR MICHAEL H. RANZENHOFER.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

DONALD KEENEY

Leaving high school early to fight for our freedom, Donald Keeney proudly joined the United States Marine Corps. He honorably served our country in the 3rd Amphibian Marine division from January 29, 1943 to December 2, 1945, when he was honorably discharged as a Sergeant, also qualified as an Expert M-1 Rifle and Amphtrac mechanic.

Mr. Keeney served in the Pacific, including tours in Guam and Iwo Jima. After returning from the War, he continued to dedicate his time and unwaveringly served his community in many ways, including as a trustee of the Granby School District, Justice of the Peace in the Town of Granby for 16 years, and Mayor and Trustee of the Village of Fair Haven.

After raising his family, Mr. Keeney went back to school, earning his high school diploma from the Fulton City School District. His entire family attended the ceremony and celebrated his success. A dedicated family man, Mr. Keeney married his high school sweetheart, and the couple has been married for 69 years. They have four children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

While he has accomplished many things, it is often said that one of Mr. Keeney's greatest achievements is teaching his family what it means to serve one's country and be a proud American.



DONALD KEENEY NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE.





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

WILLIAM A. FRANCIS

William Arthur Francis represented his country in the United States Air Force from February 1965 to October 1968. He served in Vietnam at the 7th Air Force Headquarters on Tan Son Nhut Air Base from June 1967 to May 1968, and upon completion of his service, Mr. Francis received an honorable discharge as an E4 Sergeant and was awarded both the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Francis worked in the New York City Transit Authority for 30 years, retiring in June 2006. He not only distinguished himself as an effective Yard Dispatcher and Supervisor, but set the bar for teamwork, efficiency, productivity and professional excellence.

Preceding his retirement, Mr. Francis was ordained as a minister. He became a full-time community activist, embarking on several projects, including forming a two-person team at St. James Park where he fed children free dinners, organizing a Father's Day event with a children's poetry contest and holding a Periodic Table of Elements Children's Contest. Staying involved with the youth of the community has always been very important to him.

Mr. Francis has lived at 2559 Sedgwick Avenue since 1988, where he has served as the president of the tenants association since 2011, and previously as vice president. He was instrumental in securing the seasonal ice skating ring at Van Cortland Park, bringing the Parks Department and a councilman together to build a soccer field at St. James Park, getting funding for restoration of the World War I Monument and forming the first veteran's committee at Community Board 7.

Mr. Francis has served his community as a member of Community Board 7 since 2010 and was Chairperson of its Park Committee from 2011 to 2013. He is an executive board member for the Alliance for Retired Americans, an elder abuse presenter with the Institute for Senior Action and an advisory committee member for JASA-IFSA.

William Francis has remained involved in his community since the day he joined the Air Force. He served with gallantry and honor, and has committed his life to the betterment of his community.



**WILLIAM A. FRANCIS NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR GUSTAVO RIVERA.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

ANTHONY M. FERRARESE

Anthony Ferrarese was drafted into the United States Army on January 16, 1943, and discharged December 27, 1945. During this time, he fought bravely overseas, earning the Normandy Campaign Medal for the Invasion of France [Omaha Beach] shortly after 'D Day.' He also received the Northern France, Rhineland, Europe Africa Mediterranean Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct and WWII Victory Medal.

Mr. Ferrarese joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1946, immediately after his discharge from service. The organization was not new to him since his father, a World War I veteran, had been a member for many years. As a member of the Thomas F. Healy Post 16 VFW, Mr. Ferrarese has held all offices, including commander. He went onto the county level of the organization, where he again held all offices, including Monroe County Commander.

Mr. Ferrarese became a Veterans Benefits Service Officer with the Monroe County Veterans Service Agency in 1962, and then a Veterans Counselor with the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs in 1970. He retired in 1985, and opened a counseling center at the Veterans Outreach Center, dedicating his life to his country and the veterans who served it.

For over 20 years, Mr. Ferrarese was known as the "Veterans Reporter," on a weekly radio program where he gave detailed reports on veteran's news and benefits. He announced the annual Memorial Day Parade in downtown Rochester, New York, for more than 40 years, and won state and national awards for the Monroe County VFW newsletter where he was editor and publisher.

On a suggestion from the late Assemblyman Roger Robach, Mr. Ferrarese gathered all chartered veterans organizations to help pass legislation benefitting veterans, meeting with local and state legislators and veterans leaders for breakfast for more than 42 years. These legislative breakfasts became a model for others across the state.

With all his involvement in veteran's affairs, Tony Ferrarese still finds time to work on various civic duties in his community. Throughout the years, he has served as lector, usher, Eucharistic minister and on other committees in his church. Tony has the loving support of his wife, Allison, and works tirelessly to support his fellow veterans, making sure they receive everything they deserve - from benefits to recognition.



**ANTHONY M. FERRARESE NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JOSEPH E. ROBACH.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

RODNEY K. MOORE

Rodney Moore began his military career when he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1976. He became proficient in refueling all aircraft, including fighter jets and transit aircraft. Mr. Moore became eligible for promotions and increased responsibility, taking the position of command and control tech. He worked directly for the wing commander on installations in Arizona and Texas, completing eight years of service.

In 1987, Mr. Moore transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard, where he was assigned to the Search & Rescue Unit on Governor's Island, New York. He became a boarding officer on the East and Hudson rivers. He was later assigned to the Coast Guard Recruiting Command in Battery Park, where he became proficient in processing applicants for enlisted and officer programs within the Coast Guard. Mr. Moore's tour of duty lasted six years, with his final assignment before retirement being Auxiliary Yeoman, responsible for 250 administrative files.

Today, Moore is the Veterans Housing Coordinator for a non-profit organization called Veterans in Command, located in Jamaica, Queens. Veterans in Command provides clean, affordable, furnished rooms for homeless veterans, with the goal of independent living for these service members, enhancing their quality of life and self-esteem and motivating them to be proactive in their career growth. VIC manages four properties in the 10th Senate District with a total of 29 male veterans assigned. The organization's slogan is "Not only providing a place to live...but a place to call home."

During his time in the military, Mr. Moore received numerous awards including the Air Force Achievement Medal, Coast Guard Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Bicentennial Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon and Air Force Longevity Service Award with one gold star.



**RODNEY K. MOORE NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR SANDERS.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

REVEREND DR. TONY BAKER, SR.

The Reverend Dr. Tony Baker, Sr., a native of Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York, joined the United States Army in June 1974. After 20 years of service to our nation, Dr. Baker retired with an Honorable Discharge in July 1995.

During his time of service, Dr. Baker received numerous awards including the Army Commendation Medal 6th Oakley Cluster, 5 Good Conduct Medals, an Army Achievement Medal, an NCO Professional Development Ribbon, the National Defense Medal, 3 Overseas Ribbons and an Expert Marksmanship Badge.

Dr. Baker's educational vita is reflective of the same dedication and determination that he exhibited as a member of our armed forces. He is a graduate of the New York City public school system, graduated from Liberty University with a bachelor's degree in Christian Education, a Master's Degree in Theology and Doctorate of Ministry Degree from the New York Theological Seminary.

Upon his retirement, Dr. Baker taught in the ROTC Programs at both Princeton University and Fordham University. He went on to teach for eight years in the Port Richmond High School in Staten Island, New York, where he also served as Dean of Students for three years and taught in the JROTC Program.

Dr. Baker currently sits on the Executive Board of the American Baptist Churches, USA and the Richmond University Medical Center Staten Island. He and his wife, Hyon Suk Baker, have been married for 36 years and have two children - Christal Starr and Tony, Jr., who is currently serving in the United States Army.



REVEREND DR. TONY BAKER, SR. NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR DIANE J. SAVINO.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

KATHIE FRESTON

Kathie Freston served the United States Marine Corps, earning top secret security clearance in 1953, and running the Enigma Machine at the communications center of the USMC Headquarters at Quantico, Virginia. Armed escorts accompanied Ms. Freston everywhere on base, as she was responsible for the accurate decoding, re-coding and delivery of the messages coming and going; representing the most sensitive information, operations, equipment and troop movements, and security.

With no "Imitation Game" movie about her experiences with wartime, nor fanfare about her skill sets and integrity, nor mention of the novelty at the time of being a female Marine, Ms. Freston passes off the enormity of her post in true Marine fashion, "I was doing my job." She went on to earn her Captain's bars before exiting the military in 1961.

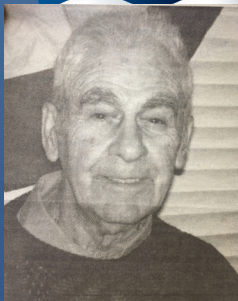
Honored as a 2014 "Emerging Trailblazer" by the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce, and the 2011 Town of Kent "Volunteer of the Year," Ms. Freston has continued her tradition of providing service to her country. After active United States Marine Corps duty, and while in the Reserves, Ms. Freston earned her Masters of Arts from New York University, beginning a 32-year career as a teacher. When she realized the social studies textbooks were lacking, Ms. Freston traveled around the world during the summers of 1958-1965, participating in archaeological digs in order to enrich her students' experiences. She displayed a level of dedication most people would never even consider.

Following her lifelong passion for Drama, Theater and the Stage, Ms. Freston is considered an innovator in the arts. At 76, she tried acting herself, leading to her being cast in plays at the Aery Theatre productions at Phillipstown Depot Theater, New York City's "The Producer's Club," and in Roger Simon's "Bard at the Bar."

Kathie Freston has gone above and beyond for her entire life. She excelled as a soldier in the United States Marine Corps and became a teacher, sculpting the minds of our youth. Ms. Freston has dedicated her life to her community and to the arts, tirelessly working to make her community an even greater place.



**KATHIE FRESTON NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR SERINO.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

DOMINIC SCIALLO

Dominic Sciallo nobly enlisted in the United States Army in November 1940, long before the United States entered World War II. He spent two years and eight months in active combat duty, participating in three invasions – North Africa, Sicily and Normandy at Omaha Beach. Mr, Sciallo was removed from the front lines at Ardenne Forest on December 24, 1944, after suffering from severe frostbite and battle fatigue. He was honorably discharged in July 1945, from the convalescent hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

During his service, Mr. Sciallo attained the rank of Sergeant in the Canon Company, 18th Infantry, a unit of the "Big Red One." He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor, as well as several service medals and individual badges. Mr. Sciallo was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, and was entered into the Honor Roll of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana. He honored his country by staying involved and committed to his fellow veterans.

Many years after the War, Mr. Sciallo resided on Roosevelt Island. He was active in the Senior Association (RISA), serving many terms as president. Mr. Sciallo developed a close relationship with United States Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who was instrumental in obtaining his World War II medals; she presented them to Mr. Sciallo at a ceremony on Roosevelt Island in his honor.

Dominic Sciallo is survived by his son, Jeff, and daughter-in-law, Vivian, his grandchildren, Robert and Kimberly, a great grandson, Dylan, and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Sciallo was a true American patriot and we thank him for his courageous service to this country, and for his dedication to the veterans and to his nation after his service.



**DOMINIC SCIALLO NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR SERRANO.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

ANTHONY J. GABRIEL, JR.

Anthony J. Gabriel, Jr. of Herkimer proudly served our nation for a total of 36 years in the United States Army. Enlisting as a buck Private in 1948, he eventually retired as a full Colonel in 1984. Mr. Gabriel performed at an exemplary level during his time in the European Theater, Korean War zones and while training his successors.

In 1948, Mr. Gabriel was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Regiment in Lenggries, Germany. His assignment list was extensive in the G-3 section, and he served with nobility and courage.

Mr. Gabriel attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Benning, Georgia, with additional duties as Company Commander of Company G 47th Infantry Division at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He was shipped to Japan in 1953, where he attended CBR school. Upon graduation, he was sent to Korea as Company Commander HQ-HQ Company, 2nd Amphibious Combat Support Brigade in Tong Nae. After Korea, Mr. Gabriel wanted to stay involved in the military forces and became Logistics Coordinator for the United States Army Reserves in numerous locales.

In his civilian life, Mr. Gabriel has been a devoted community leader; serving as village trustee, Herkimer Boxing Club President and 4th degree knight/life member of the Knights of Columbus; he helped build many Mohawk Valley landmarks as a Past President/life member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America.

Mr. Gabriel stays involved with his fellow veterans, serving as a life member/Past Post Commander of Michael Pliseck VFW Post #4915. He served on the committee that was the first in the nation to send World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit their World War II memorial. Mr. Gabriel has remained quite active in fighting for the rights of his fellow veterans, making sure they get the treatment and recognition they deserve.

Mr. Gabriel helped establish the Veterans Memorial Park monument on the Herkimer County Community College campus. His name is one of 10 Gabriel family members' names etched on the monument honoring his family's over 110 years of active duty service from World War I to present day.

Colonel Anthony J. Gabriel, Jr. has fulfilled an array of crucial duties as a member of the United States Army and as a civilian. No matter the task, his leadership, wisdom and compassion have always been on point for his beloved country and flag.



**ANTHONY J. GABRIEL, JR. NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR JAMES L. SEWARD.**





JAMES EARL WASHINGTON

First Sergeant (1SG) James E. Washington was born on May 24, 1962. He was raised in Long Island, and graduated from Sewanhaka High School, Floral Park, New York in 1980. Mr. Washington attended Nassau Community College before entering the United States Army on November 9, 1982 at Fort Hamilton, New York. He completed Basic Training and Advanced Initial Training (AIT) as a Combat Engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and completed his second AIT as a Petroleum Supply Specialist at Fort Lee Virginia in 1985.

1SG Washington's duty positions and assignments include Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant First Sergeant, S3 Operations Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), 23rd Quartermaster Brigade; S3 Operations NCO, United States Forces Iraq (USF-1), Camp Taji Iraq; Contracting Officer Representative (COR), Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-1), Camp Taji Iraq; Brigade Intelligence Officer, 23 Quartermaster Brigade, Fort Lee, Virginia; First Sergeant, Charlie Company, Fort Lee, Virginia; First Sergeant HHC 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, Fort Lee, Virginia; First Sergeant, Uniform Company Fort Lee, Virginia; First Sergeant 148th Quartermaster Company, Fort Lee, Virginia; G3 Logistics NCO, Fort Richardson, Alaska; Installation NCO, Stryker Brigade Combat Team 5 (SBCT5), Fort Richardson, Alaska; Platoon Sergeant, Fort Wainwright Alaska; Operations NCO, III Corps Fort Hood, Texas; Platoon Sergeant 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Platoon Sergeant 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Petroleum Supervisor Fort Bragg North Carolina; Petroleum Section Sergeant and Petroleum Handler. Prior to retirement, 1SG Washington was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, Fort Lee, Virginia.

In addition to his high school education, 1SG Washington earned a bachelor's degree from Southwestern College, associate's degree from Central Texas College and the following courses: Petroleum Supply Specialist, Combat Engineer, Warrior Leader, Airborne, Air Assault, Master Fitness, Equal Opportunity Representative, Antiterrorism Level II, Physical Security, Senior Leaders, Advanced Leaders, Army Basic Instructor, Contracting Officer Representative, First Sergeant's, and the Company Commander/First Sergeants course.

1SG Washington's awards and decorations include Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (7th OLC), Army Achievement Medal (6 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (2nd award), Armed Forces Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (numeral 3), Army Service Medal, Overseas Service Medal, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal (NATO). He is a lifetime member and former president of the Sergeant Audi Murphy Club (SAMC) III Corps and Fort Hood Chapter, and is a member of the Honorable Order of Saint Martin Club; 1SG Washington is a member of the 11th New York Regiment Cavalry United States Volunteers and also the American Legion Cathedral Post 1087.

1SG Washington enjoys giving back to the community. His goal is to create unity, cohesion and esprit de corps within the neighborhoods and communities throughout Long Island. He has two children - Bianca, 23 and James Jr., 17. He is engaged to Vanessa Jones. 1SG Washington is retired from the United States Army and lives in West Hempstead, New York.



JAMES EARL WASHINGTON NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR DEAN G. SKELOS.





LT. B.R. KIMLAU CHINESE MEMORIAL POST 1291

The American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 was established in 1944 in memory of Lieutenant Benjamin Ralph Kimlau. Lt. Kimlau served as an Air Force bomber pilot during World War II. He was killed in action during an air battle over the New Guinea Islands in March 1944.

For the past 70 years, the American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 has been an active participant in New York's Chinese Community. The Post is a strong supporter and active member of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) and has sponsored many services, not only to benefit its membership, but for the wider Chinese-American community. Some of these services include: petitioning for the installation of traffic lights in Chinatown to eliminate accidents and protect pedestrians; erecting a fitting and everlasting memorial in Chinatown- Lt. Kimlau Square - to honor the service and sacrifice of Chinese-American soldiers who answered the call of duty; creating a program to teach English to new immigrants; and arranging a weekly Tai-Chi class to allow community members to learn and practice the ancient exercise.

In recent years, the Kimlau Post has continued its balanced approach of promoting patriotism and service to the community while supporting Chinese-American advancement. In 2003, the Post established an American Legion Auxiliary unit and Sons of American Legion Squadron, where spouses, children and grandchildren of veterans can join the American Legion family, helping to provide additional programs and services. The American Legion's longstanding and well-recognized programs – and how they serve the community – will continue to be the focus well into the future.



LT B.R. KIMLAU POST 1291 NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR DANIEL SQUADRON.





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

JACK W. HARRINGTON

Jack W. Harrington enrolled in the State University of New York at Oswego to obtain an Industrial Arts degree. While there, Marine engine companies were looking for skilled men to train Navy crews for PT and gun boats just prior to World War II. Mr. Harrington was assigned to the United States Navy Bureau of Ships, 11th Amphibious Force/Combined Operations in London.

Mr. Harrington enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and served from 1946-1949. His intelligence and strong work ethic helped him rise to the rank of Staff Sergeant, serving at Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Following his dedicated service, Mr. Harrington returned home to resume his education, graduating from Cornell University with a degree in Industrial Labor Relations in 1952.

After having served in the military, Mr. Harrington eased into civilian life, working for Traveler's Insurance Company, and then moving on to Mohawk Airlines as Director of Employee Relations. In 1955, he moved to White Plains, New York, and worked for the Swiss Re until his retirement.

Mr. Harrington continued his commitment to service as a community activist and preservationist in the City of White Plains. During his 59 years in White Plains, Mr. Harrington and his late wife, Peg, were key figures in the development of the City, leading movements to preserve historic buildings, landmarks and open spaces.

Mr. Harrington was always an active member of his community. For 22 years, he served as President of the White Plains Historical Society, and also as a member of the White Plains Conservation Board, Chairman of the White Plains Comprehensive Plan Committee and as a member of the White Plains School District Annual Budget Committee. Mr. Harrington was instrumental in founding the White Plains Greenway Committee in 1996 - the Committee oversaw the transformation of a former railway and dumping ground into one of the most widely-used walking trails.

Jack W. Harrington has been called the "Father of the Greenway," and in 2012, the City of White Plains honored him for his work and activism by officially naming the trail "The Jack Harrington Greenway Walking Trail." Mr. Harrington continues to actively promote the significance of the history of White Plains and its development.



**JACK W. HARRINGTON NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

KARL W. MONSON

Karl W. Monson was born in 1918. He graduated from Wheaton College and planned to attend medical school, but first enlisted in the United States Army as a Private in June 1941. Mr. Monson was assigned to Seacoast Artillery and was serving in San Diego when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He was sent to Officers Candidate School, and in April 1942, he graduated as a "90-day wonder" with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. That July, Mr. Monson was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and in August, Captain in charge of the 602nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Battalion. Mr. Monson rose quickly in the ranks due to his unprecedented intelligence and perseverance.

In October 1943, Mr. Monson was promoted to Major and was charged with the anti-aircraft protection of New York City. In February 1944, his 602nd AAA shipped to England, where Mr. Monson was assigned the protection of airfields. On June 12, his 602nd AAA landed on Easy Red of Omaha Beach, Normandy. Mr. Monson headed the air defense of Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, continuing through four major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge. Then promoted to Lt. Colonel, Mr. Monson was assigned to 1st Army V-Corps staff; he was discharged from the United States Army at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1946, after serving with courage and nobility for five years.

While stateside in 1943, Mr. Monson married the love of his life, Janna Loeks. Together, they raised four children. After the War, Mr. Monson waived a scholarship to medical school and instead went to work as General Manager at the Perry Knitting Company. In the 1960s, Mr. Monson became President of the Atlas Underwear Company, which made men's underwear for Montgomery Ward, Penney and Sears, and the underwear that Neil Armstrong wore when he landed on the moon.

Last year, in recognition of his wartime service in the liberation of France, Mr. Monson was presented the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor from the French government.

Mr. Monson lives with his daughter and son-in-law in Cazenovia, New York.



**KARL W. MONSON NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR DAVID J. VALESKY.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

BRIAN HALL

Captain Brian J. Hall was born in New York City and graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York, in 1984. Upon commissioning, he reported for active duty to Surface Warfare Officer School Command.

Mr. Hall's sea duty assignment was onboard USS NITRO (AE-23), where he served as a replenishment At Sea Division Officer and First Division Officer. While assigned to the USS NITRO, he qualified as Surface Warfare Officer.

Mr. Hall's first reserve assignment was Operations Officer for Convoy Commodore, 102, Naples Det. in 2012. He thrived in subsequent positions, receiving many assignments as a competent leader. In June 2012, he assumed his present duties as Deputy Reserve Component Command (RCC) for Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. On December 1, 2012 he would assume duties with USFF as Senior Staff with Strike Training Group Atlantic.

After serving so valiantly and with such leadership, Mr. Hall was decorated with the Navy Meritorious Service Medal (Gold Star), the Navy Commendation Medal (2 Gold Stars), the Navy Achievement Medal, the Navy Unit Commendations, the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Mr. Hall holds a USCG License as Master of Steam and Motor Vessels of Any Gross Tons Oceans and is a Professor of Marine Transportation at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Captain Hall has lived a lifelong military life and along with our veterans deserves to be recognized, commended and thanked for their service to our nation.



**BRIAN HALL NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR MICHAEL VENDITTO.**





NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME

WALLACE C. HIGGINS

Born on November 11, 1925, Wallace C. Higgins was destined to become one of our nation's tremendous veterans. Before beginning his service, a young Wally Higgins had already begun studying to be a pilot as a member of the Civil Air Patrol during his senior year at Roosevelt High School in Kendall, New York. On his 18th birthday, November 11, 1943 – before he had even graduated – Mr. Higgins and his father traveled to Fort Dix, New Jersey, so he could enlist in the United States Army.

At Fort Dix, Mr. Higgins was assigned to an all African-American troop. After completing his preliminary training, he was surprised to find himself transferred to Biloxi, Mississippi. Once there, he was chosen to go to Tuskegee for training in the mechanics of flight, weather, navigation and piloting in a PT 17 bi-plane, similar to the Piper Cub.

After 11 months of training at Tuskegee, Mr. Higgins was assigned to the 1909th Engineer Aviation Battalion's "A" Company, where he was the Sergeant in charge of concrete. With war in Europe winding down, Mr. Higgins was stationed in Saipan and Okinawa, where he oversaw the construction of roads, airfields, and buildings for ammunition which were later used in the bombing of Japan.

For dedication and valor during his service, Mr. Higgins earned numerous medals and ribbons, including Construction Tech, Special Services, Tuskegee Class 45-A, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon and the American Theater Ribbon. In 2015, Mr. Higgins was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service as a member of the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

Following his discharge on March 17, 1947, Mr. Higgins went on to earn his high school diploma. Because he had always been interested in design, he enrolled in Alfred University, where he attained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1952, and married his wife, Norma. In 1961, he went to work at Alfred University, and was employed there as an associate professor until his retirement in 1985. He was later awarded the status of Professor Emeritus.

Mr. Higgins will always be honored as a decorated veteran, thanks to his commitment and bravery during his service to our country. He served with honor and duty, sacrificing for the freedom of our nation.



**WALLACE C. HIGGINS NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE
VETERANS' HALL OF FAME BY SENATOR CATHARINE M. YOUNG.**

Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future

By Elizabeth Claire Palmer

It is a blustery fall day, the air cool and crisp, the otherwise desolate city landscape punctuated by the occasional splash of vibrant foliage. I sit in the passenger seat of the car, the effervescent autumn light filtering across my lap through the open window. As the car comes to a rest before a red light, I catch a glimpse of the vehicle in front of me. An old station wagon, the paint chipped liberally and covered in rust, the bumper is adorned with three weather-worn stickers. The first, barely visible through years of wear, states that the driver had valiantly served in Vietnam. The second, less dilapidated adhesive establishes that he is also the proud parent of a Marine. The third one succinctly proclaims, "If you love your freedom, thank a veteran."

A profound statement...a catalyst for thought.

If not for America's veterans, we all would be living a vastly different reality. For over two centuries, our veterans have fought tirelessly to protect and preserve the democratic ideals upon which our nation was founded.

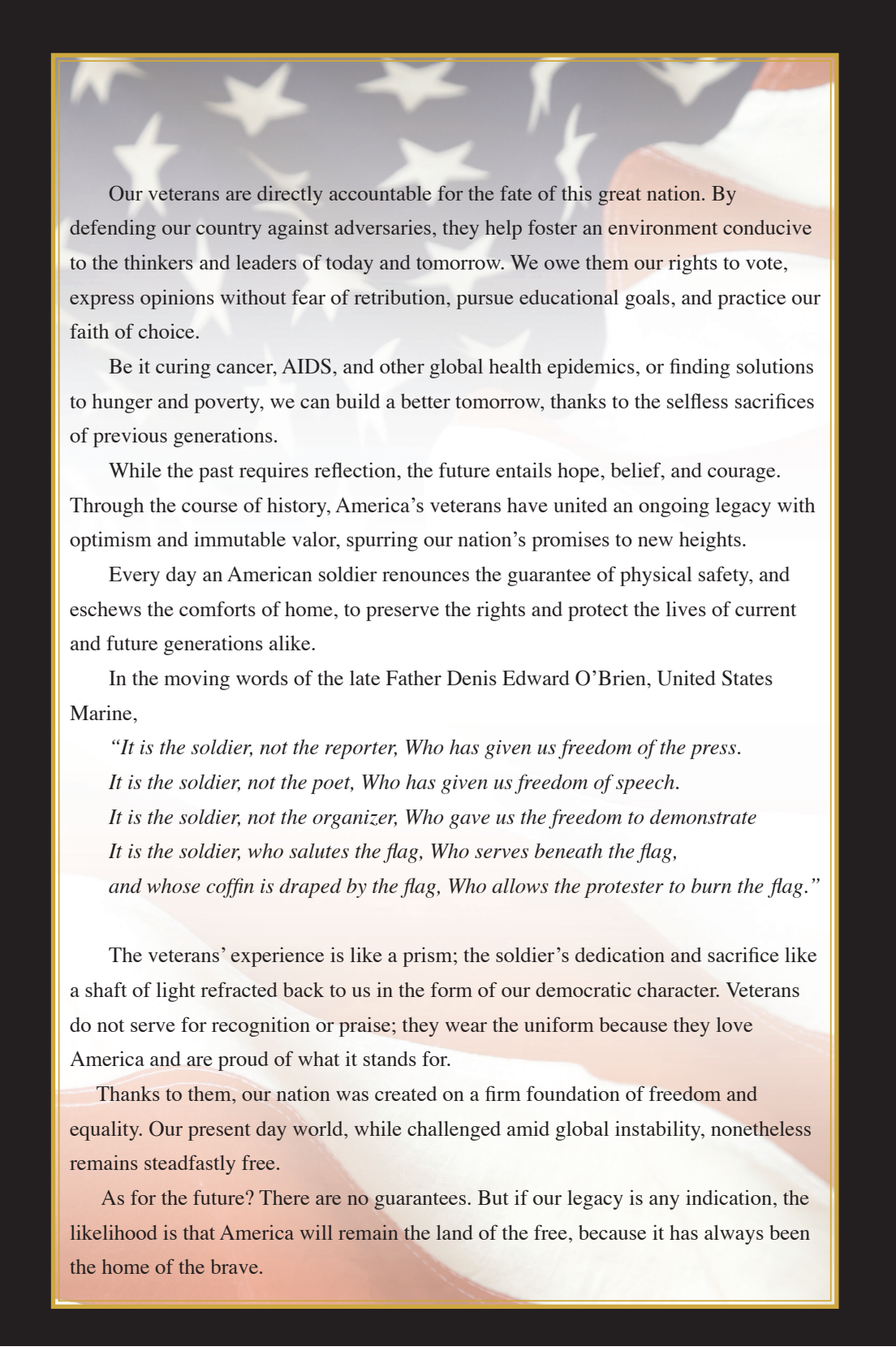
William Shakespeare once mused, "What is past is prologue."

That statement is echoed through the many incarnations of America previous decades have seen. As aptly expressed by those patriotic bumper stickers, one era of veterans protects our liberty and passes the torch of service to succeeding generations.

From the young marine in Normandy to the tanker in Kuwait, the ensign at Leyte Gulf to the transport pilot at Khe Sanh, veterans have unfailingly defended our honor, meeting every crisis with poise and perseverance. As the Air Force motto declares,

"The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer."

Veterans are the authors of our past, the defenders of our present, and the architects of our future. They serve both for those that they hold dear to their hearts, and for those that they have never met. It is a testament to our republic that, according to a national poll, 89 percent of the 2.5 million Iraqi and Afghani veterans would willingly serve again.



Our veterans are directly accountable for the fate of this great nation. By defending our country against adversaries, they help foster an environment conducive to the thinkers and leaders of today and tomorrow. We owe them our rights to vote, express opinions without fear of retribution, pursue educational goals, and practice our faith of choice.

Be it curing cancer, AIDS, and other global health epidemics, or finding solutions to hunger and poverty, we can build a better tomorrow, thanks to the selfless sacrifices of previous generations.

While the past requires reflection, the future entails hope, belief, and courage. Through the course of history, America's veterans have united an ongoing legacy with optimism and immutable valor, spurring our nation's promises to new heights.

Every day an American soldier renounces the guarantee of physical safety, and eschews the comforts of home, to preserve the rights and protect the lives of current and future generations alike.

In the moving words of the late Father Denis Edward O'Brien, United States Marine,

*"It is the soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the organizer, Who gave us the freedom to demonstrate
It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag, Who allows the protester to burn the flag."*

The veterans' experience is like a prism; the soldier's dedication and sacrifice like a shaft of light refracted back to us in the form of our democratic character. Veterans do not serve for recognition or praise; they wear the uniform because they love America and are proud of what it stands for.

Thanks to them, our nation was created on a firm foundation of freedom and equality. Our present day world, while challenged amid global instability, nonetheless remains steadfastly free.

As for the future? There are no guarantees. But if our legacy is any indication, the likelihood is that America will remain the land of the free, because it has always been the home of the brave.