



# SENATOR JIM ALESI

*Community Update: Week Ending 3/12/10*



## Celebrating Women's History Month

This week, almost 200 women received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress, in recognition of their service during World War II as Women Airforce Service Pilots. As Airforce Service Pilots, these women flew non-combat missions that enabled male pilots to fly overseas. In celebrating Women's History Month, I salute the Gold Medal recipients for their service to our country and their achievement in aviation history.

But did you know that Blanche Stuart Scott, born April 8, 1885 in Rochester, was a pioneer in aviation history. Ms. Scott earned great acclaim for her aviation prowess in the early 1900s as an aerial exhibitionist for traveling shows, and later, as the first American woman to fly in a jet, when she was a passenger of legendary test-pilot, Chuck Yeager. For her achievements in aviation, on December 30, 1980, the United States Postal Service commemorated Ms. Scott by issuing an air mail stamp in her honor.

## Partnering with Highland Hospital to Fight Breast Cancer

For years I have been a strong advocate for the programs and services offered to women through Highland Hospital for the early detection and prevention of breast cancer. I have been truly fortunate for the opportunity to secure essential funding for research, equipment and community outreach. Under the direction of Dr. Brad Berk and Amy Kates, Chairwoman of the Highland Hospital Foundation, I am confident that the talented physicians and dedicated volunteers at Highland Hospital will continue to work tirelessly to eradicate this deadly disease.

With financial assistance, Highland Hospital has been able to purchase state-of-the-art digital mammography equipment for its comprehensive Breast Imaging Center. By expanding the Center's capabilities, patients will experience reduced waiting time for appointments and increased mammography services. I remain fully committed to helping Highland Hospital reach more women in our community to detect and prevent the further spread of breast cancer.

## Meeting Our Highway Superintendents



On Wednesday, I met with many of Monroe County's Highway Superintendents, as well as Terry Rice, Director of the Monroe County Department of Transportation (seated left) to discuss highway funding and transportation issues for our local towns and villages.

Last year, the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) received \$363.1 million in state funds, while the Municipal Streets and Highways Program (known as Marchiselli Aid) received \$39.7 million. In recognizing the current economic challenges facing our state, I understand that it will be extremely difficult to increase funding for our highways, roads and bridges this year, even though such an increase in funding is extremely necessary and more than justified.

Nevertheless, it is imperative that Governor Paterson withstands further pressure from his colleagues in New York City to pull more money from capital programs vital to Upstate New York. In recent years, Downstate Leaders have directed billions of dollars needed for Upstate communities and local projects, including \$1.3 million in federal stimulus funds earmarked for six, shovel-ready transportation projects in Monroe County this year, to New York City and surrounding counties.

The most blatant disregard for Upstate highways, roads and bridges occurred last year, when Gov. Paterson, Lt. Gov. Ravitch, who was serving as Chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) at the time, and Democrat Leaders in the Senate and Assembly passed legislation to bail the MTA out of a \$3 billion deficit, without any consideration for our aging infrastructure in Upstate New York.

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