



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

George M. Borrello

## Senator George Borrello Honors Retired Army Master Sgt. Francisco “Frank” Morales with New York State Senate Veterans’ Hall of Fame Award

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ALLEGANY, NY – New York State Senator George Borrello today honored Master Sgt. Francisco "Frank" Morales for his distinguished military service and unwavering commitment to veterans by inducting him into the prestigious New York State Senate Veterans’ Hall of Fame at St. Bonaventure University’s Doyle Conference Center.

The ceremony, attended by Sergeant Morales' family, friends and colleagues, was a tribute to his decades-long service to the United States and his enduring dedication to supporting veterans. His continued service to the community as the Director of St. Bonaventure's Military Aligned Student Program exemplifies his ongoing impact on the lives of veterans.

Senator Borrello, who led the ceremony, praised Sgt. Morales as a hero whose legacy extends far beyond the battlefield.

"Sergeant Morales embodies the spirit of service, both on and off the battlefield. His actions in combat, especially his extraordinary bravery that earned him the prestigious Silver Star medal, and his leadership at home have made a lasting impact on the lives of so many, especially here in our district. It is my honor to recognize him for his service and his commitment to our community," said Senator Borrello.

Sgt. Morales enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1990 and served for more than 20 years, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant in 2007. Over the course of his military career, he completed five overseas deployments, including two tours in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as deployments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Uganda.

Morales' leadership during his second deployment to Afghanistan in 2006 was particularly distinguished. On August 26 of that year, while serving as a platoon sergeant and acting platoon leader in Paktika Province, Morales exhibited extraordinary bravery under fire. As a convoy commander, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to save wounded U.S. soldiers during a fierce enemy ambush, actions that earned him the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.

Following his retirement in 2010, Sgt. Morales joined St. Bonaventure University as a senior Military Science instructor with the Army ROTC program, where he mentored and trained

over 40 officers who were commissioned through the Seneca Battalion. Morales also earned a Master of Education in Mental Health Counseling from the university in 2013 and has remained a dedicated member of the Bonaventure community. He now serves as the Director of Military Aligned Students, advocating for veterans and military-affiliated students.

“Frank is an incredible leader, and we are fortunate to have him leading our Military Aligned Program that supports veterans and their families. He is an advocate for all veterans and a valuable resource throughout the Southern Tier,” said Bernie Valento, vice president for Enrollment at St. Bonaventure.

"One only has to be in Frank's presence for moment to realize how he would take command and lead his soldiers out of harm's way on that isolated road in Afghanistan. Having experienced three combat tours myself, I know what it takes in an NCO to rise above his or her peers...Frank checks all the boxes," said retired Brigadier General Arthur Austin.

"I'm deeply honored to be recognized in this way. Serving my country has been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I share this honor with my family, whose unwavering support has made my achievements possible. I am proud to represent not only myself but also St. Bonaventure University and the veterans of Cattaraugus County. This recognition is a tribute to all veterans who continue to serve, whether in uniform or within their communities," said Sergeant Morales.

Morales' military accolades include the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), Good Conduct Medal (6th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2 Service Stars), Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 Service Stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and many more. His career is a testament to dedication, bravery, and a commitment

to service that continues even in civilian life.

The New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame honors veterans across the state who have served their country with distinction and continue to contribute to their communities. Master Sgt. Morales joins a prestigious group of veterans from the 57th District who have been recognized for their selfless dedication.

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