



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Tedisco

Tedisco Welcomes Mechanicville Korean War Veteran Paul O'Keefe to Senate Chamber and Honors Him and All Korean War Veterans

[James Tedisco](#)

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Senator Jim Tedisco (R,C-Ballston Lake) and the NYS Senate today welcomed and honored Korean War veterans including Tedisco's 2024 NYS Senate Veterans Hall of Fame inductee Paul O'Keefe from Mechanicville to the Senate Chamber.

"Paul O'Keefe is a patriot and truly a 'Veterans Veteran' who is beloved in the Capital Region veterans community for his heroic service during the Korean War and all he continues to do as an

advocate for veterans and chaplain at many veterans events and ceremonies," said Senator Tedisco.

While in Korea, Paul served with the 24th Infantry Division (known as the Victory Division) as one of the first U.S. troops called to South Korea to fight with the Republic of Korea's (R.O.K.) troops.

At the start of the war, the 24th Infantry Division and R.O.K. troops were completely outnumbered, but just battled on and were able to delay the North Korean forces from advancing. The 24th Division, despite overwhelming odds, continued holding off the North Korean invaders, allowing the United Nations to build up its forces to help defend South Korea. The 24th Division suffered 3,735 Americans killed and 7,395 wounded during the Korean War.

Following the Korean War, Paul worked at General Electric Silicones as a lab technician and retired after 33 years.

Paul is currently the Chaplain and active member of the American Legion Post 91. He can be seen at many community events representing Korean War Veterans, as well attending numerous veterans' events throughout the Capital Region, including serving as Chaplain for the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors monthly "Honor Our Deceased Veterans" program and rendering veterans their final salute at cemeteries.

For 65 years, Paul has been a firefighter with the Hemstreet Park Fire Department in Mechanicville, New York where he also served as Chaplain. He regularly speaks to school groups and young people about the service and sacrifice of our veterans and the importance of community service.

As President of the Albany Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Paul pushed a wheelbarrow from Mechanicville City Hall to Albany City Hall three times raising thousands of dollars!