



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Peter Oberacker

Senator Peter Oberacker Honors Hometown Hero Richard Bingham as 2025 Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee

PETER OBERACKER May 27, 2025



ALBANY, 5/23/25 - Today, Senator Peter Oberacker proudly recognized First Sergeant (Ret.) Richard “Bunk” Bingham as the 2025 New York State Senate Veterans’ Hall of Fame inductee. This prestigious honor celebrates a lifetime of selfless military service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our Nation.

“It is my distinct honor today to celebrate a true American hero whose life has been defined by a selfless and unwavering commitment to our Nation,” said Senator Oberacker. **“First Sergeant Bingham answered the call to duty during one of the most turbulent times in American history and**

has never stopped giving back.”

Richard’s journey began on April 23, 1968, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army and deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Aviation Brigade. He served bravely as a Motorpool Sergeant and returned home in December 1969 where his commitment to duty continued. In 1977, he resumed service with the 414th Civil Affairs Company in Utica, later joining the 426th Civil Affairs Company in California as a Military Police Supervisor. After returning to New York, he dedicated seven years to mentoring recruits as a Basic Training First Sergeant with the 1165th Training United.

With nearly four decades in uniform, First Sergeant Bingham earned numerous honors, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. He retired with the rank of First Sergeant in 2007, closing a distinguished military career marked by humility, courage, and an everlasting dedication.

“To Bunk, wearing the uniform was never just an obligation, but a sacred privilege,” said Senator Oberacker. **“His story is an inspiration to me personally and to all who know him. We are proud to honor his service and the values he continues to embody.”**