



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Rob Rolison

## NY Senator Rob Rolison Awards Liberty Medal to East Fishkill resident

[Rob Rolison](#)

July 18, 2025



Senator Rolison is pictured with Paul Davidson's wife Susan, and his brother, Gerry, who is also a veteran.

Paul Davidson posthumously recognized for service in United States Navy

Recognizing the heroic actions and military service of Dutchess County native, Paul Davidson, New York State Senator Rob Rolison (R-39) has awarded The New York State Liberty Medal, the highest civilian honor, to the United States Navy veteran, posthumously.

"Paul's unwavering commitment to the people of our region, through his selfless volunteerism and dedication to improving the lives of others, epitomizes what the Liberty Medal stands for," said Senator Rolison.

"When I worked with the Red Cross, Paul was one of our most dedicated volunteers and someone I counted as a friend. I was never aware of his distinguished military service because, like so many veterans, he didn't speak of it. It was a special privilege to recognize him today—not just for his quiet service to our country, but for the lasting difference he's made in our community."

Davidson enlisted in the Navy in 1966 at the age of 18, and the following year was one of the few young men to be assigned as an engineman to a four-man crew of the River Patrol Force in Vietnam, an especially dangerous assignment. Here, Davidson operated Patrol Boat River (PBRs), providing support for ground troops, Navy SEALs and special operations forces to disrupt enemy forces' operations by intercepting boats, engaging enemy forces, and preventing the flow of arms.

Davidson was discharged home in August 1968. He is adorned with the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze stars, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation and the Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm, in recognition of his service.

Davidson's selection was authorized through an official Senate Resolution and reflects his longstanding dedication to service, integrity, and leadership. His recognition joins a distinguished legacy of Liberty Medal recipients across New York State. Davidson's family received the Liberty Medal on his behalf at the July 17 Dutchess County and Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs "Honor a Veteran" program celebrations, which family, friends, and Dutchess County honor a veteran at monthly ceremonies in recognition of their service to their country.