



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kenneth P. LaValle

Tribute to Family of Fallen Soldier, Sergeant Jonathan Keller

KENNETH P. LAVALLE August 12, 2009

| ISSUE: **TROOPS**



Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (right) and Assemblyman Marc Alessi joined to pay tribute to the service of fallen soldier Sergeant Jonathan Keller. The Senator and Assemblyman presented a New York State Legislative Resolution to Linda and Martin Keller mourning the untimely death of their son, Sgt. Keller, who died January 24, 2009, nine months after being injured during an encounter near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Sgt. Keller was a 1998 graduate of Shoreham-Wading River High School, after which he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He joined the New York Army National Guard in March 2004 and was originally a member of the "Fighting 69th" in Bay Shore before being assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, based in Buffalo. Sgt. Keller earned a Purple Heart for his courageous actions and ultimate sacrifice.

Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Alessi expressed deep appreciation for the sacrifices made by our military in their commitment to protecting the freedoms we cherish as Americans. The Legislators presented the resolution to Sgt. Keller's family at a special ceremony that provided an opportunity for family, elected officials, and local residents to honor a respected and upstanding member of their

community for his patriotic service and ultimate sacrifice.