



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Flanagan

In Memory of John Andrew Thorburn

JOHN J. FLANAGAN January 14, 2010

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At a time when our nation is rightfully taking every opportunity to show those who have served our nation the appreciation they deserve, I wanted to take a moment to remember the life of Mr. John Andrew Thorburn of Stony Brook who served our nation during the Vietnam War and recently passed away.

In September of 2008, I had the privilege of presenting Mr. Thorburn with the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross in honor of his seven years of service to our country. Joining with his family and friends at a ceremony in my office, I was touched by his humility when presented with this well-deserved recognition and grateful to have played a small role in this proud man's life.

As a member of both the Army and the Air Force until injuries forced him to retire in the early seventies, Mr. Thorburn received many distinctions for his service including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross (Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Force Good Conduct Medal and the United States Army Good Conduct Medal. His service was a true credit to our nation and he is someone who brought pride and honor to our entire community.

Mr. Thorburn, along with the many others Americans who have served our nation, sacrificed much to protect our way of life and we should always remember their dedication. I hope everyone in our community will take a moment to honor his life and remember his family at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

John J. Flanagan