



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Local World War II Hero Inducted Into Veterans Hall Of Fame

JAMES L. SEWARD June 1, 2010

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ALBANY, 06/01/10-- State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today honored Chester A. Scerra of Richfield as a 2010 inductee to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.

“Chester Scerra is a true American hero,” said Senator Seward. **“He risked his life to help secure the freedoms and liberties we enjoy each day and is well deserving of inclusion in the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.”**

Sergeant Chester A. Scerra served in the U.S. Army during World War II. As a member of the

390th Paratroop Battalion of the 98th Infantry Division, Scerra made 29 jumps, assisting in various demolition efforts, disabling enemy bridges and communication. His unit was a forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and played a major role in intelligence gathering as part of mission Walla Walla in Italy. For his role in liberating Italy, Scerra was awarded the Italian Cross of War Merit.

The New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame inductees may be former members of any branch of the United States Armed Forces. The exceptional men and women are chosen for this prestigious honor based on either service in combat or notable work performed after discharge from the service.

“After taking part in Memorial Day services earlier this week, honoring those who lost their lives in service to our country, I am extremely proud to pay tribute to Sergeant Scerra for his lasting contributions both on United States soil and abroad. It takes a very special individual to risk his life as Chester did, and on behalf of all Americans I want to say thank you,” Seward concluded.

Scerra was recognized during a reception at the Capitol. A legislative resolution (J5653) honoring Scerra and other hall of fame inductees was adopted unanimously by the state senate.