



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James L. Seward

Seward Preserves the Future of History Day

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COOPERSTOWN, 04/29/11 – State Senator James L. Seward (R/C/I-Oneonta) today announced that the state budget includes, at his insistence, \$100,000 to continue the state's participation in National History Day. The announcement coincided with the statewide judging of student projects in Cooperstown.

"Students in our schools need to know more about history -- state, national and world," said Senator Seward. **"State participation in National History Day promotes academic achievement, intellectual growth and offers the personal reward of knowing more about our past. The program also shines a light on the New York State Historical Society, a true Otsego County gem."**

The state budget includes \$100,000 for the non-profit New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown to coordinate statewide participation in National History Day. The program assists teachers and schools in meeting state learning standards by offering students a hands-on approach to the study of history. Typically, almost 150 schools and more than 8,000 students participate in New York State from every region.

Dr. Paul S. D'Ambrosio, president and CEO for the New York State Historical Association and the Farmers' Museum said, "I have been involved in History Day for the past 27 years. The work of these students, their enthusiasm and pride in their

projects, has inspired and moved me. I am overwhelmed by the commitment from New York State and wish to thank Senator Seward for his dedication to this valuable statewide competition."

Garet D. Livermore, vice president for education for the New York State Historical Association and the Farmers' Museum added, "National History Day in NY is a program that reaches out across New York to serve thousands of students who learn about our state's history and culture through projects that require students to do original research to create their exhibits, papers, and documentaries. A recent study documented National History Day's effectiveness in raising student achievement scores in social studies, writing, math and science. We appreciate Senator Seward's support for this vital program in difficult times."

"The competition also helps boost the Otsego County economy, with hundreds of students, teachers and family members making the trip to Cooperstown," added Senator Seward.

This year's National History Day theme is Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. Statewide winners will travel to Maryland for the national competition, June 12-16.