



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Stephen M. Saland

## Senator Saland Names Michael Tokarz to the Senate's Veterans' Hall of Fame

STEPHEN M. SALAND May 22, 2012

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Senator Steve Saland (R,I,C – Poughkeepsie) today announced Michael Tokarz of Red Oaks Mill was inducted into the Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame. The veterans selected are recognized not only for their distinctive military service, but also for the service and commitment shown to their community that helps make New York a better place.

Michael Tokarz served our country in the Army as an Infantry Paratrooper to the First Special Operations Command and was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Urgent Fury. He received the Army Commendation Medal 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Recon Badge, Jungle Expert, and Expert Rifle, TOW and Dragon Missile.

“It is critically important that we pay tribute and reflect upon the dedication of those who have served their country with such distinction. Michael continues to serve his community and his fellow veterans,” said Senator Saland. “Michael Tokarz is a remarkable individual who has demonstrated a selfless commitment to his countrymen and neighbors throughout his life. His contribution to both his nation and his community deserve to be recognized and honored.”

Michael Tokarz remains active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ having served as Post Commander and County Commander for the American Legion at Arlington Post 1302 in Poughkeepsie. He is currently a member of the American Legion National Legislative Council and the National Membership Committee, and is the Vice Chairman of the New York State American Legion Membership Committee. He has testified before Congressional Committees and lobbied at the national, state and local levels for the needs of veteran’s, their families and active duty troops. In addition, Michael is a long time volunteer with the Town of Poughkeepsie Youth Baseball Program and the Boy Scouts of America.

Michael and his wife Mary have two children and reside in Red Oaks Mill, NY.

“Michael Tokarz is a much decorated patriot who deserves this special recognition as a fitting expression of our gratitude and admiration,” said Saland.

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