



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Senator Ritchie, Fort Drum Troops Make Holiday Visit to Oswego Child Battling Cancer

PATTY RITCHIE December 18, 2012

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Julian Ross Made Honorary “Sergeant” by 10th Mountain Division Soldiers

State Senator Patty Ritchie, along with members of Fort Drum’s 10th Mountain Division, on Tuesday visited the home of Julian Ross, an Oswego County second grader who has been battling cancer for more than a year.

Utilizing her close ties with Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division, Senator Ritchie arranged the visit after learning of seven year-old Julian’s fascination with all-things military.

“It’s so important, especially during the holidays, to remember people like Julian, and let them know we care,” said Senator Ritchie.

During the visit, Julian was appointed an honorary “Sergeant” by members of the 10th Mountain Division. Troops in attendance also presented Julian with gifts donated by soldiers and various groups at Fort Drum.

“I can’t put into words how thankful I am for the generosity of our 10th Mountain Division soldiers who took the time to make the trip to Oswego, as well as Fort Drum’s new Commanding General, Major General Stephen Townsend and his staff for helping to coordinate the visit to Julian’s home,” added Senator Ritchie.

“Even though we live so close to Fort Drum, many people in Central and Northern New York don’t realize the huge role 10th Mountain Division soldiers play in our everyday lives. It’s not just protecting our freedom, it’s doing things like taking time to make people who are struggling, like Julian, feel special.”

(Senator Ritchie is pictured in the above photo with Julian Ross, Col. Patrick N. Kaune Major Darrick Gutting, Command Sgt. Major Mark Oldroyd, Sgt. Brad Johnson and Sgt. Francisco Bernardino)