



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Rupp Joins Ritchie to Collect “Holiday Mail for Heroes”

PATTY RITCHIE October 29, 2013

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### **Deadline to Send a “Touch of Home” to Troops is November 15<sup>th</sup>**

With Veterans Day just around the corner, St. Lawrence County Clerk Mary Lou Rupp is joining State Senator Patty Ritchie in her campaign to collect holiday cards for the military as part of the “Holiday Mail for Heroes” program.

“The holidays can be a lonely time for our men and women in the military,” said St. Lawrence County Clerk Mary Lou Rupp. “That’s why I am collecting cards at my DMV offices in Canton, Ogdensburg, Massena, Gouverneur and the St. Lawrence County Clerk’s office in the county courthouse .”

The program—which is sponsored by the American Red Cross—aims to collect donated Christmas cards to be sent to US soldiers serving overseas. This year, Senator Ritchie is also once again joining with Ogdensburg native and radio host Melody Burns to collect holiday greetings. Last year, Senator Ritchie was able to collect 2,200 holiday cards from Central and Northern New Yorkers to distribute to service members at military installations, veterans hospitals and other locations.

“The Red Cross and I want to make sure every member of our armed forces hears from the folks back home this Christmas season,” said Senator Ritchie. “This is the second year that Albany radio host Melody Burns and I have worked together to make sure our military knows they have not been forgotten.”

To help send a touch of home to our troops this holiday season:

- Do not include envelopes
- Do not include personal letters, photos or inserts of any kind
- Use generic salutations such as “Dear Service Member,” as cards addressed to specific individuals cannot be delivered through this program;
- Avoid cards with glitter or using loose glitter as it can aggravate health issues of ill and injured warriors;

Cards can also be sent to: Senator Patty Ritchie, 330 Ford St., Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669. The deadline to contribute cards is November 15<sup>th</sup>.