



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

## Senate committee approves O'Mara legislation to eliminate fees for Purple Heart license plates

THOMAS F. O'MARA January 18, 2018

| ISSUE: **HONORING LOCAL VETERANS**



The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action.

**Albany, N.Y., January 18**—The New York State Senate Transportation Committee this week approved legislation sponsored by Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C,I-Big Flats) to eliminate the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) fee for Purple Heart veterans to obtain New York's distinctive Purple Heart license plate.

O'Mara's legislation (**S4086/A154**) will now go before the full Senate for a vote. The Senate unanimously approved the measure in 2017, but the Assembly never acted on it.

O'Mara said that because of the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients made in serving our nation, these veterans should receive New York State's Purple Heart license plate at no cost.

"I'm proud to sponsor this legislation to provide another small way to remember and to honor the sacrifices of America's veterans. Purple Heart recipients risked their lives in defense of America. They are heroes, and they have earned and deserve every show of respect and gratitude that we can provide," said O'Mara.

The current, first-time fee for obtaining a personalized Purple Heart license plate is \$60.00.

The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action. It is believed to be the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first medal bestowed on common soldiers, according to the **Military Order of the Purple Heart**.

Assemblyman Kevin Cahill (D-Kingston) sponsors the legislation in the Assembly, where it is currently in the Assembly Transportation Committee. To become law, legislation needs Senate and Assembly, and then be signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo.