



# OBSERVING MEMORIAL DAY 2011

On Memorial Day we pay tribute to the men and women who have given their lives to stand in defense of our nation. There is no greater privilege in my job as your Senator than when I am able to honor the brave veterans who have selflessly served our country in order to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. Their courage and sacrifice constitute the foundation of our freedom, and we will forever owe them a debt of gratitude.

The first observance of Memorial Day was in Waterloo, New York, in 1866 when the area conducted the nation's first formal observance of veterans who had died in the Civil War. In May of 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a Presidential Proclamation that recognized Waterloo as the birthplace of Memorial Day. It is important that on a day often associated with the start of summer, family gatherings and picnics, citizens, both young and old, understand the history and significance of the sacrifices made by those individuals to ensure our American way of life.

This Memorial Day, please take a moment out of your day to honor those who have served our nation by attending your community's Memorial Day observance.



## SOME OF THE MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS IN OUR AREA

### *Sunday, May 22nd ~*

Henrietta parade, 1:00 pm, Calkins Road

### *Friday, May 27th ~*

United States Postal Service ceremony, 3:00 pm, Jefferson Road Post Office

### *Saturday, May 28th ~*

East Rochester parade, 10:30 am, West Commercial Street and Main Street

### *Sunday, May 29th ~*

Irondequoit parade, 3:00 pm, Titus Avenue

### *Monday, May 30th ~*

- Chili parade, 8:30 am, Chili Avenue; name reading and picnic, 11:00 am, American Legion Post 1830
- Churchville parade, 10:30 am, West Buffalo Street and North Main Street
- Honeoye Falls, "Flags, Books, and Bands" picnic, 12:30 pm, Rotary Park
- Irondequoit flag raising, 7:00 am, Town Hall; memorial service, 9:00 am, Irondequoit Cemetery
- Fairport VFW Post 8495 ceremony, 11:00 am, Potter Park
- Penfield "Procession of Roses," 10:30 am, Veterans Memorial Park
- Pittsford parade, 10:00 am, Monroe Avenue and North Main Street
- City of Rochester parade, 12:00 pm, East Avenue and Main Street
- Rush parade, 9:30 am, East Henrietta Road; ceremony, 10:00 am, Pine Hill Cemetery
- Scottsville parade, 9:30 am, Beckwith Avenue; ceremony, 10:30 am, American Legion Post 367





## NEW YORK STATE SENATE **VETERANS'** HALL OF FAME



### **RALPH L. CHINELLY (1926 ~ 2011)**

#### ***Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2005***

Ralph L. Chinelly was stationed at Thomas M. England Army Hospital in Atlantic City during World War II, caring for more than 7,000 paraplegics and amputees. After his military service, and despite his blindness, Mr. Chinelly dedicated himself to assisting his fellow veterans to obtain basic life necessities, like seeing eye dogs, walkers, canes and prescription medications. For his military and volunteer service, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory medal, and the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award and the President's Lifetime Call to Service Award. Mr. Chinelly passed away on February 4th. He was 84.



### **GENERAL NORBERT J. RAPPL**

#### ***Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2007***

General Norbert J. Rappl was commissioned through the ROTC program at St. Bonaventure University in 1952. Following his tour of duty in Korea, he left the active army and joined the family business and Army Reserves. Following a series of command and staff positions in Upstate New York, he became commander of the 98th Division in 1981 and was promoted to Major General in 1982, the highest rank a reservist could attain at the time. The division commanded all Army Reserve units in Upstate New York, and had wartime assignments with active army divisions along the inter-German border during the Cold War. In 1987, after thirty-four years of service, General Rappl retired from the United States Army Reserves and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.



### **COLONEL JOHN J. PERRONE**

#### ***Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2010***

Colonel John J. Perrone has almost thirty-five years of combined service in active duty and the reserves. In 2001, Colonel Perrone was selected to return to active duty as the Force Protection/Anti-Terrorism Chief of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, responsible for developing plans, policies and procedures to protect American personnel and facilities. After the Olympic Games, Colonel Perrone was selected to be the Commander of the Joint Detainee Operations Group at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. As Commander, Colonel Perrone oversaw 1,200 soldiers conducting long-term detention operations that included receiving, securing and caring for over 600 suspected terrorists in support of the Global War on Terrorism.



*“Our fallen heroes have made certain that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. This Memorial Day, let’s unite to honor their memory and sacrifice.”*



## **DISPLAYING THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Our American Flag has long exemplified the spirit of those who lost their lives in battle, as well as those who have fought valiantly and survived. It stands for all our ancestors who have worked, saved, and sacrificed at home to raise their families in such a strong, free and prosperous land, and it stands for us.

It is the universal custom to display the American Flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves on all days that weather permits. The flag should be flown especially on national and state holidays and other days that may be proclaimed by the President of the United States. **On Memorial Day, the American Flag should be flown at half-staff until noon, then be raised to the peak.**



## **DISPOSING OF A TATTERED AMERICAN FLAG**

When an American Flag “is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display,” states the United States Flag Code, the flag “should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.” Many local veterans organizations, municipalities, and scouting troops in our area accept worn American Flags to ensure that each one is retired and disposed of in a respectful manner.

**On Saturday, June 4th, I will welcome anyone who wishes to drop off an American Flag for proper disposal. I expect to be joined by local scouts that will assist in this effort at my office between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm.** Please call my office at (585) 223-1800 for further assistance or to schedule a different drop-off time.

*Jim*





**SENATOR**  
**JIM ALESI**  
**ALESI.NYSENATE.GOV**

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## **NICK VERZELLA TO BE INDUCTED INTO VETERANS' HALL OF FAME**

**Nick Verzella of East Rochester has been nominated by Senator Alesi for induction into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame in a special ceremony on June 14th at the State Capitol.**

A longtime member of American Legion Post 1917 in East Rochester, and a perennial fixture as Master of Ceremonies for the village's Memorial Day observance (pictured with Senator Alesi in Edmund Lyon Park in 2009), Mr. Verzella has been twice named Post 1917 Legionnaire of the year, and in 1997, was named Monroe County Legionnaire of the Year for his commitment to his fellow veterans. Mr. Verzella served in Europe during World War II, first in the 78th Infantry Division and later in the 16th Constabulary Squadron in occupation of Berlin. Returning home from Berlin, he graduated from SUNY Brockport, and began a distinguished, thirty-nine year career in public education in East Rochester schools, receiving numerous accolades for his years as a teacher, administrator and coach.

The New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame was created to honor and recognize outstanding veterans from the Empire State, like Nick Verzella, who have distinguished themselves both in military and civilian life. Their meritorious service to our nation deserves the special recognition that only a Hall of Fame can provide, as a fitting expression of our gratitude and admiration.

Mr. Verzella will join the late Ralph L. Chinelly of East Rochester (2005), General Norbert J. Rappl of Irondequoit (2007), and Colonel John J. Perrone of Penfield (2010) as members of the Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame nominated by Senator Alesi.



## **PURPLE HEART FOREVER STAMP UNVEILED**

An effort that began eleven years ago in the New York State Senate has resulted in the United States Postal Service reclassifying the Purple Heart postage stamp as a "Forever" stamp to ensure that it will remain in circulation, thus serving as a constant reminder of the tremendous sacrifices that American men and women have made on the field of battle.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the United States military who have been wounded or killed in action. According to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, an organization for combat-wounded veterans, the medal is "the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier," dating back to August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington issued an order that established a badge of distinction for meritorious action.

