



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



★ 2023 ★

VETERANS

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Dear Friends,

Our televisions and social media platforms have been saturated with images of conflict and war – from the Middle East to Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine – the stark reality of these often brutal images pulls at our heartstrings and makes us wonder what it is we can do as everyday citizens. Veterans have stepped up and offered their services in the face of conflict, and for more than a decade, the New York State Senate has honored them to show our immense gratitude and appreciation.

To acknowledge and recognize these remarkable patriots, we honor them on these pages and in our virtual program at nysenate.gov. Their commitment to service has been essential to preserving our rights, protecting our liberties, and safeguarding our lives at home and abroad. Their bravery and courage of conviction have shaped and sustained our country – one of diverse beauty and unwavering strength.

The honorees you will learn about today have been nominated because of their service, but it is important to note that they are also New Yorkers who are genuinely committed to public service. They are small business owners, police officers, volunteers for children's organizations, teachers, union members, entrepreneurs, mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers. They are also our neighbors saying hello to us on our way to work; they are our neighbors who have answered the call to country and are an integral and crucial part of our growing communities.

While it is essential to recognize, appreciate, and honor the sacrifices made by our 2023 Veterans Hall of Fame inductees, and by the over 880,000 New Yorkers who have served in the Armed Forces, it is also salient to acknowledge the sacrifices of our service member's spouses, families and loved ones. Their unwavering support enables our most dedicated to meet their duties and reminds us why they fight to preserve our safety and freedom.

We thank the 2023 New York State Veterans Hall of Fame inductees and are grateful for the service of all the heroes who have served in our Armed Forces.



Andrea Stewart-Cousins

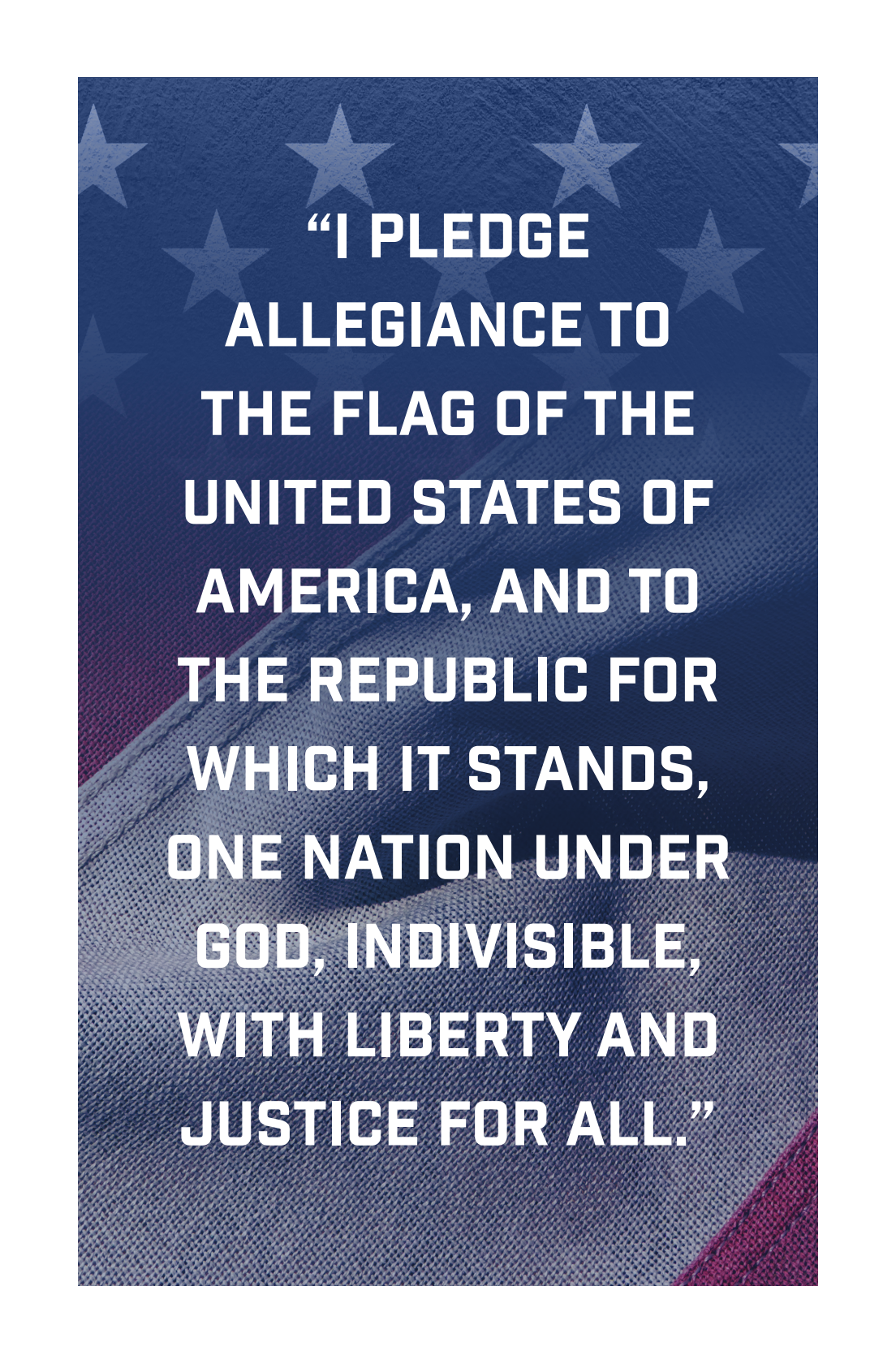
Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore
NYS Senate Majority Leader



Robert G. Ort

Senator Robert G. Ort
Minority Leader



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag. The blue field with white stars is prominent in the upper half, while the red and white stripes are visible in the lower half. The stars are arranged in a grid pattern, and the stripes are horizontal. The overall texture of the flag is visible.

**“I PLEDGE
ALLEGIANCE TO
THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, AND TO
THE REPUBLIC FOR
WHICH IT STANDS,
ONE NATION UNDER
GOD, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL.”**



LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE 2023 NEW YORK STATE SENATE VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HONORING the distinguished veterans from the State of New York upon the occasion of their induction into the New York State Senate 2023 Veterans Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the distinguished veterans from the State of New York upon the occasion of their induction into the New York State Senate 2023 Veterans Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame inductees are members of any branch of the United States Armed Forces which include Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marine Corps; these exceptional men and women are chosen for this prestigious honor based on either service in combat or notable work performed after discharge from the service; and

WHEREAS, The 2023 inductees include: Murat Akaydin, LaShaun Benjamin, Sr., Justin Berbig, Clayton W. Bihl, Stephen C. Biscotti, Floyd Sanford Bonds, Jr., Richard L. Butterfield, Edwin Cartoski, Anthony Catalano, Joseph M. Cetta, Kathy Dean, Melissa del Valle-Ortiz, Stephen Delorenzo, Joshua Jose Diaz, Herbert J. Dunmore, Jr., Chester Edwards, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Engel, Jr., James Fitzgerald, Peter Fiumefreddo, Joseph A. Gentiluomo, Ryan Graham, Frederick Gundel, Charles Lee Hinkleman Sr., Ann Marie Hogancamp, Christopher Holshek, Marie Carmel Houanche, Richie Jarcho, William R. Joyce, Howard Kalachman, Vanessa A. Lee, Gregory T. Lee, James Lint, Mike Liquori, Herbert C. Loesch, Alexander Mandara, David Mann, Peter Maraday, Hector Carmelo Montes, Thomas Mooney, Charles A. Navarino, Tricia Navarro-Caraballo, John Nonna, Michael Ortiz, Ralph J. Osterhoudt, Sr., Katherine Quinones, Samuel Ravelo, Richard Redmond, Yashira Rodriguez, First Sergeant Joseph Ronda, Frank Russo, Robert R. Spieler, Annie L. Suggs, Andrew Swarthout, Tristie L. Tappin, Joseph A. Thompson, Michael Louis Vulcano, Ruth Welch, and Kenneth W. Winkler; and



WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we, who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the distinguished veterans from the State of New York upon the occasion of their induction into the New York State Senate 2023 Veterans Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 2023 inductees.



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HONOREES
NEW YORK STATE SENATE



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MURAT AKAYDIN

Murat Akaydin served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of E-4 Specialist.

Growing up in Coney Island, Brooklyn, Mr. Akaydin learned two very important things from his mother: the importance of education and the value of helping others. Over the next few decades, he exemplified both lessons — earning prestigious degrees and serving his country in diverse roles. While his sense of community has expanded, and the nature of his work has shifted, Mr. Akaydin has continued to fight for equality and local democracy.

Mr. Akaydin came of age at a pivotal time in New York's history, as terrorists toppled the World Trade Center and America's military entered two foreign wars. As a high schooler in the early 2000s, he founded a club to dispel misconceptions about Islam and led efforts to combat violence in his community. Seeking to make money for his family, serve his City, and gain access to an affordable higher education, Mr. Akaydin enlisted in the military. He was placed with the 101 Airborne Division and was deployed to Afghanistan Regional Command East, where he worked in military intelligence from 2010 to 2011.

After earning his bachelor's degree from American Military University and his Master of Public Administration from CUNY John Jay, Mr. Akaydin served as a NYC Civic Innovation Fellow. In that role, he helped community boards across the City utilize New York's Open Data to study community demographics and achieve equitable representation in community board appointments.

Currently, Mr. Akaydin works for the NYC Campaign Finance Board, advancing voter education efforts, such as the publication of NYC Voter Guides. This year, he was selected to join Community Board 7 on the Upper West Side. He also serves as the Chair of Generation Vote's Education Fund and Vice President of Muslim Americans in Public Service NY, among many other roles. He is a proud and active member of his union, DC37 Local 1549.

His military service is only part of his already long public life, yet it continues to guide his values as he works to deepen his community roots, empower neighbors, and improve local government.



**MURAT AKAYDIN WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN-SIGAL.**

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LASHAUN BENJAMIN, SR.

LaShaun Benjamin, Sr. served in the United States Marine Corps and achieved the rank of First Sergeant, E-8.

Mr. Benjamin retired after 20 years of service from the Fourth Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. His tours of duty and deployments included Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After his tenure with the military, Mr. Benjamin immediately began giving back to his community. He began a co-teaching position in Leadership Education as a Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Instructor at Mexico Academy and Central School District in Upstate New York. This is a unique program sponsored by the Marine Corps that authorizes retired veterans to assist in educating our youth to become better citizens.

Mr. Benjamin utilizes lessons learned from the Marine Corps to inspire and encourage growth in others. He has an exceptional work ethic, dedication, and willingness to serve his community.

He strives to be a leader who is approachable and easy to talk with. Mr. Benjamin is passionate in all he does and has been observed discussing career options with his cadets and the youth who attend Tillie's Touch.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Benjamin is a person of incomparable integrity and character. He prioritizes honesty, respect, and kindness in all interactions and is committed to creating a positive and inclusive community. During his free time, he volunteers at his local church, The Promise Land Church in East Syracuse. His dependability and exceptional care for anything he does makes him a standout member of our community.

Mr. Benjamin is married to Tasha Benjamin, a Lead Advocate at the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center. They met while he was in the Marine Security Guard program in London, England. They are the proud parents of four exceptional children, LaShae, Tiesha, LaShaun Jr., and Naomi.



LASHAUN BENJAMIN, SR. WAS SELECTED AS A
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SENATOR JOHN W. MANNION.

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JUSTIN BERBIG

Justin Berbig served in the United States Army in the 82nd Airborne Division from 2001-2005 as a land combat electronic missiles repairman in Afghanistan. He achieved the rank of Specialist.

During his service to our Nation, he earned numerous awards and commendations, including two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Berbig received his degree in History from the State University of New York at New Paltz, where he was the president, founder, and coach of the New Paltz Croquet Club. He continues to volunteer his time every year at the National Collegiate Croquet Championships, where he assists and mentors other croquet players. For his effort and dedication, he was named as one of New Paltz's 40 Under 40 recipients.

Mr. Berbig is steadfast in his efforts to serve other veterans in the community. At Island Harvest, he coordinated Operation Hope, where he was charged with scheduling and delivering food and supplies to hundreds of veterans across Long Island.

Always going above and beyond what is expected of him in his various roles, Mr. Berbig ensures that veterans and their families connect with much needed benefits and are aware of available resources. He also enjoys sharing his love of gardening.

He currently works at Long Island Cares as Veteran Outreach Coordinator, where he advocates for the needs of veterans and connects them with essential services.

A resident of North Babylon, Mr. Berbig and his wife, Selena, are the proud parents of two children, Zoey and Brandon.



JUSTIN BERBIG WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR MONICA R. MARTINEZ.

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CLAYTON W. BIHL

Clayton W. Bihl served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946 and achieved the rank of First Sergeant.

Mr. Bihl was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He attended grade school at St. Mark's, where he was a Boy Scout and an altar boy. He participated in numerous sports and enjoyed singing in the chorus. His schooling continued at Bennett High School.

In 1943, when Mr. Bihl was 19, he was drafted into the Army. He was assigned to the Anti-Aircraft unit at Camp Davis in North Carolina. He truly wanted to be a pilot and completed the pilot training exam. After a temporary assignment at Kessler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, he was transferred to Texas Southwestern State College, where he studied Navigation and Pilot Training.

It was during this time that he received word that he had to forgo his studies and training, and he was being transferred to the infantry and sent overseas to fight the Germans. He landed in Marseille, France and was assigned to the 103rd Division. Mr. Bihl was quickly promoted to First Sergeant.

After fighting battles in the Vosges Mountains, his Division continued to push through, and in December 1944, Mr. Bihl fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where he spent 26 days living in a foxhole. Later, the 103rd Division moved deeper into enemy territory and broke through a series of defensive barricades called the Siegfried Line, located on the western border of Germany. Once inside Germany, Mr. Bihl took part in liberating the prisoners held at the Kaufering Concentration Camp, which was a sub-camp of the Dachau.

On April 28, 1946, Mr. Bihl was honorably discharged and received five medals for his bravery and valor during his military service.

Once back in Buffalo, he met and married Dorothea Utz. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees at Canisius College and became a math teacher at his alma mater, Bennett High School.

Now retired from teaching, Mr. Bihl and his wife spend time traveling and gathering with friends and family at their lake cottage. Mr. Bihl was also a volunteer at a local nursing home.

Along with his three children, Mr. Bihl has six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He recently celebrated his 100th birthday.



CLAYTON W. BIHL WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR SEAN M. RYAN.

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STEPHEN C. BISCOTTI

Stephen C. Biscotti served in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman from 1979 to 1983, followed by Active Reserve Duty from 1983 to 1985.

Mr. Biscotti is the embodiment of unselfish service to his country, his faith, and his fellow man.

He served for 21 years in the New York Police Department, retiring as Detective from the Counter-Terrorism Division.

Since 2006, Mr. Biscotti has worked in healthcare and was appointed Director of Security at Mount Sinai South Nassau (MSSN) in November 2016.

Mr. Biscotti was instrumental in starting the Mount Sinai South Nassau Veterans Committee in 2019, which includes members from all hospital departments. Under his leadership, the Mount Sinai South Nassau Veterans Committee holds a greatly expanded hospital Veterans Day event to honor and recognize not only the employees who are veterans, but all veterans of the United States.

A tireless and proactive champion for veterans, Mr. Biscotti has initiated and supported numerous programs in support of veterans, including the placement of a military chest for collecting food at the hospital. Since its inception, over 4,000 pounds of non-perishable food have been collected for the Nassau County Veterans Agency.

Steadfast in his pursuit to help veterans, Mr. Biscotti also assisted with the "Suits on Soldiers" drive to collect professional clothing for veterans to use in job interviews and the "Coats on Soldiers" drive to provide warm clothing for veterans and their families. He was also at the forefront in the establishment of a Veterans Committee Scholarship Fund for MSSN veterans to further their professional education.

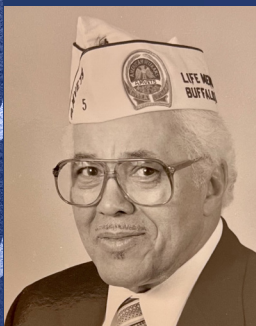
Mr. Biscotti was the recipient of the Nassau County "Distinguished Service to Veterans Award" in 2021 and was recognized with a Citation of Commendation by the Nassau County Executive.

Mr. Biscotti's courage, bravery, and dedication to protecting our freedom and giving back to others is truly remarkable. His commitment to our Nation and selflessness are an inspiration to us all.



STEPHEN C. BISCOTTI WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR STEVEN D. RHOADS.

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FLOYD SANFORD BONDS, JR.

Floyd Sanford Bonds, Jr. served in the United States Naval Reserve and the United States Army as a Private First Class.

Mr. Bonds was born in Buffalo, New York on December 23, 1929. He answered the call to serve his country following graduation from high school on October 7, 1948.

Mr. Bonds was assigned to the 450th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, Battery B. During his military service, Mr. Bonds received extensive training, attended Quartermaster School in Lee, Virginia in 1949, and returned to duty as a Utility Repairman. In 1950, he attended Fort Ord in California, completing the Clerks General Course and returning as a General Clerk.

In 1951, Mr. Bonds was called to Fort Bliss, Texas to attend the Artillery School to study Fire Control Electrician courses in order to become a Fire Control Specialist, Aircraft Artillery/Automatic Weapons (AA/AW). He was last stationed at Ladd Army Base and Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. Mr. Bonds was honorably discharged on July 16, 1952.

Upon discharge from the Army, Mr. Bonds continued his service to our community by joining the American Veterans (AMVETS), where he was an active member and held numerous leadership positions throughout his lifetime, including Post and County Commander and New York State Commander from 1995 to 1996.

Mr. Bonds was the first African American AMVETS New York State Department Commander. He was a member of the Masonic Order Paramount Lodge #73, Bison Consistory #29 and Hadji Temple #61, where he served as Past Potentate and Treasurer. Additionally, Mr. Bonds dedicated more than 37 years to working for the USPS, and he served in various roles within the Community Action Organization and the Erie County Council of Head Start.

Before his passing on October 23, 2022, Mr. Bonds worked diligently to support and honor his fellow veterans, serving as a member of the Korean War Monument Committee and the Erie County Veterans' Committee at the Erie County Fair.

Mr. Bonds was a man of faith, active in his church and within his community. He loved to travel, visiting 49 states throughout his lifetime. He is survived by his son, Floyd S. Bonds III, and daughter, Kathleen D. Bonds Walker, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, who honor his legacy every day.



**FLOYD SANFORD BONDS, JR. IS HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY
AS A 2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY.**

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RICHARD L. BUTTERFIELD

Richard L. Butterfield proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1963 to 1970.

Commissioned as Second Lieutenant upon graduation from Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia in March 1965, Mr. Butterfield was sent to Vietnam as a Pathfinder Team Leader, 11th Pathfinders 1st Cavalry Division.

Mr. Butterfield saw combat in the battles at LZ X-Ray, LZ Columbus and LZ Albany – la Drang Valley, where he and his team directed helicopter resupply, medical evacuation, and rescue missions. It was here that he was wounded and did not leave his team until all other wounded soldiers were removed from the battlefield.

Serving his second tour in Vietnam in 1968, Mr. Butterfield was Captain and Company Commander of E Company 2nd Battalion 506 Infantry 101st Airborne. His company conducted numerous combat operations. After recovering from injuries at Camp Zama in Japan, he returned to Vietnam and served as Team Commander with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Green Berets assigned to MACV-SOG. Missions from this unit were deemed classified.

For his valor and service to our Nation, Mr. Butterfield earned 28 personal awards and decorations, including the Purple Heart. He was inducted into the United States Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in 1995.

Honorably discharged from active duty, he then served with the New York Army National Guard from 1970 to 1995 as a company commander, Battalion Commander 2nd of the 105th Infantry, and as the Commander of the 1st Brigade 42nd Infantry Division. He was breveted to the rank of Brigadier General upon his retirement in 1995.

As a civilian, Mr. Butterfield spent 35 years with the New York State Police, serving from 1970 to 2006. He moved into undercover work as an investigator with CNET and the BCI. His undercover initiatives were essential to numerous investigations, arrests, and convictions in many areas of criminal activity.

After retiring from the New York State Police, Mr. Butterfield joined the Warren County Sheriff's Office as Marine Patrol on Lake George. He was then cross-designated to go back undercover to work on a task force with the New York State Police CNET, where he again received numerous commendations for his undercover work.



**RICHARD L. BUTTERFIELD IS HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY
AS A 2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JACOB C. ASHBY.**

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EDWIN CARTOSKI

Edwin Cartoski served his country for decades, retiring from the United States Marine Corps in 1974 with the rank of Colonel.

Mr. Cartoski grew up in Quogue and graduated high school early to enlist in the United States Navy, where he had extensive flight training in the V-5 pilots training program.

He reported to Colgate University for civilian pilot accelerated training. He then went to UNC at Chapel Hill for a higher level of physical training and to learn code, aeronautical terms, advanced identification of enemy aircraft, and tactics. He received additional flight training at E Base in St. Louis, Missouri. The final stage of training took place in Pensacola Naval Air Station, where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. Marine Pilot.

Mr. Cartoski was sent to the Philippines and then Hawaii, where his squadron supported the Bikini Bomb test. Mr. Cartoski stated, "We had F6F drones that flew into the cloud to read the radiation and collect other data. Our ship was a support ship. We retrieved a Hell Cat that was irradiated. It was isolated, but a lot of guys were in bad shape by the time we got back to Pearl Harbor."

In 1946, Mr. Cartoski left the military and enrolled at the University of Alabama to study aeronautical engineering, but was recalled to active duty and served with the Marines in Korea, where he provided air support for the First Marine Division. The Marine Corps sent him to Pensacola to be a Flight Trainer, then reassigned him to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Mr. Cartoski left active duty in 1955 and remained in the Marine Reserve and worked for Grumman Aerospace. He also is a graduate of the Naval War College at the Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia.

During his notable career, he earned numerous awards, including: The Distinguished Flying Cross with one Gold Star, The Air Medal with five Gold Stars, Presidential Unit Citation for service in Korea, Army Distinguished Citation for service in Korea, Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal World War II, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and Korean Presidential Unit Citation for service in Korea.

Mr. Cartoski retired from Grumman in 1983 and received the Sikorsky Helicopter Rescue Award for his skills and courage when participating in numerous lifesaving missions.



EDWIN CARTOSKI WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ANTHONY H. PALUMBO.

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ANTHONY CATALANO

Anthony Catalano served in the United States Army and obtained the rank of Sergeant.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Catalano, along with two of his brothers, were drafted into the military in 1941. He was immediately assigned to General Patton's famed 3rd Army in the 70th Infantry Division, known as the "Trailblazers."

In 1944, his Division spent 83 consecutive days in combat, with part of that time spent fighting the infamous Battle of the Bulge in sub-freezing temperatures in Ardennes, France. "When we got to the Ardennes, we were in four feet of snow and without winter gear," Mr. Catalano recalled. "We were stuck; we couldn't move." Eventually, they ran out of water and rations, which Mr. Catalano would not eat, but exchanged with fellow soldiers for chocolate. For water, he had his men collect snow in their canteens and melt it until supplies could arrive. Eventually, bulldozers plowed through the snow to rescue them.

When Mr. Catalano's Division moved on to Belgium and Germany, vehicles were scarce, so he and his soldiers had to march miles on foot through snow and slush. "Some were getting trench foot," he said, a condition caused by prolonged exposure to cold, wet conditions. Mr. Catalano's Company was also part of the group that liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp. He is still visibly shaken by the experience and doesn't like to talk about the horrors he saw. "I was 23 and felt like an old man. I think I turned gray at 25" he added.

When the war in Europe ended, he served four more years in the United States Group Control Council in Berlin, helping U.S. forces set up a German military government to restore order.

Once home, he worked for the Federal Aviation Administration as an Air Traffic Controller at LaGuardia Airport and at Idlewild Airport, now known as John F. Kennedy Airport. He retired in 1973 as Assistant Chief Controller.

Over the years, Mr. Catalano shared his experiences with students in local schools. He is still an active member of VFW Post 5253 in Albertson.

A resident of Mineola, Mr. Catalano turned 103 years old on October 23. He is predeceased by his wife, Linda, who passed in 2009.



ANTHONY CATALANO WAS SELECTED AS A
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SENATOR JACK M. MARTINS.

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JOSEPH M. CETTA

Joseph M. Cetta's military career spanned nearly four decades (Active and Reserve) with both the United States Marine Corps and the New York Army National Guard. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Born in Walton, New York, Mr. Cetta knew at an early age that he wanted to serve his country, and he enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program after his junior year at Walton High School. Just five days after graduation, he arrived at Parris Island to begin his training. He then spent four years on active duty with VFMA-312 with two Western Pacific deployments that included duty in Japan, the Philippines, Okinawa, South Korea, Guam, and Wake Island. He was honorably discharged in June 1983.

Two months later, Mr. Cetta joined the New York Army National Guard. Over the next 32 years, he held numerous leadership positions and was deployed to missions throughout New York State in response to natural disasters. Additional deployments took Mr. Cetta to Panama, Honduras, and Guatemala on nation-building missions.

Later, he was ordered to active duty and deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, serving as Liaison Officer with the 42nd Infantry Division during each tour.

The highly decorated veteran has received the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

He continues to give back to the community where he grew up. Mr. Cetta first served as Village Trustee in his hometown of Walton, and now as the Town Supervisor. He is also a firefighter with the Walton Fire Department.

Mr. Cetta has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his country, his fellow service members, and his community. His contributions, both in and out of uniform, are well deserving of our eternal respect and admiration.



JOSEPH M. CETTA WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR PETER OBERACKER.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

KATHY DEAN

Kathy Dean served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Ms. Dean proudly served our Nation as an active-duty soldier serving two stints of Army service. A skilled military member, she trained at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, Charles Company Cobras, Second Platoon, Training Battalion and Ft. Still, Oklahoma, C Battery, First Battalion 19th Field Artillery 1st Platoon Night Stalkers.

Ms. Dean's first period of regular Army Active-Duty Service and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was as a 02J20 Clarinet Player from 1980 to 1986. She went on to Advance Individual Training at the School of Music, Naval Amphibious Base, in Little Creek, Virginia, where she was stationed for six months.

Her permanent duty stations were 1st Army Band in Ft. Meade, Maryland; the 8th Army Band in Seoul, Korea; and the 19th Army Band in Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

Ms. Dean's second Regular Army Period was from 1999 to 2002. Her Military Occupational Specialty was as a 75H20 Personnel Sergeant (S1) at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. She was assigned to the 38th Personnel Service Battalion in Bamberg, Germany.

A Global War on Terrorism veteran (GWOT), Ms. Dean was mobilized at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona on a Post Quick Reaction Force the day the Twin Towers fell in New York City, when our Nation was attacked on the horrific day of September 11, 2001.

The Department of Defense sent out a THREATCON DELTA order, and soldiers were to separate barracks at Ft. Huachuca, sleeping in full uniform with field gear right beside their bunks. Working 12-hour shifts, the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) read the Rule of Engagement before every shift. The soldiers were then marched down to the Arms Room in order to be issued M-16s from the Supply Sergeant, who would also distribute four magazines of live ammunition.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Ms. Dean, along with many others, began to be mobilized to different parts of the military post they were assigned to. They were locked and loaded as they were under the threat of being bombed. Ms. Dean also assisted the Military Police with Post Check Points.

Even though she was in dangerous situations and uncertainty, Ms. Dean performed her duties with honor and vigilance.



KATHY DEAN WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JAMES SANDERS JR.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

MELISSA DEL VALLE-ORTIZ

Ms. del Valle-Ortiz served in the United States Army as a Unit Supply Specialist.

Ms. del Valle-Ortiz was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. After her honorable discharge, she returned home to where she now resides in Sunset Park. She is a proud mother of two, Jeffrey and Victoria. Ms. del Valle-Ortiz served on the PTA throughout their education until they graduated from high school.

Ms. del Valle-Ortiz has been employed in Sunset Park's nonprofit and government sectors since 1994. She has held various positions with Hispanic Young People's Alternatives Inc.; Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc.; Sunset Park Redevelopment Committee, Inc.; and most recently as the Housing and Community Liaison to the Office of Congressmember Nydia Velazquez.

Ms. del Valle-Ortiz is committed to her community and is a staunch advocate. She has served on numerous boards, including the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women and the National Alliance of HUD Tenants. Locally, she has served on DYCD's Neighborhood Advisory Board and sat on the Executive Committee of its Community Action Board. She served as a member of Community Board 7, where she successfully advocated for a Disability Awareness Committee.

Most notably, Ms. del Valle-Ortiz was the first woman of color to preside as President over the League of Women Voters of New York City in its then-95-year history.

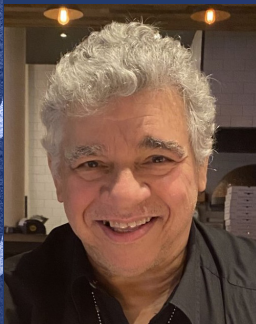
Culturally grounded as a proud Black Puerto Rican, she continues to serve as the Co-chair to the Dr. Antonia Pantoja Youth Leadership Award for community service under the auspice of the Boricua Festival Committee. Further invested in her community, she is on the board of Imani House, Inc. and is an advisory member to the Caribbean American Center of New York. A staunch housing advocate, she started and continues to lead the first tenants association in her project-based Section 8 housing development, the largest of the three remaining in Sunset Park.

Currently, Ms. del Valle-Ortiz is spearheading the committee for NYC Parks Brooklyn 9/11 Living Memorial Grove in Sunset Park. As a two-year breast cancer survivor, she has also been organizing Survivor Celebrations and routinely partners with the American Italian Cancer Foundation to host mobile mammogram screenings in and around Brooklyn.



MELISSA DEL VALLE-ORTIZ WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ANDREW S. GOUNARDES.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

STEPHEN DELORENZO

Stephen Delorenzo served as a Private in the United States Army.

The eldest of four siblings, Mr. Delorenzo was raised in the Bronx by a loving family. After graduating from DeWitt Clinton High School, where he was a champion wrestler, he took on a variety of jobs. He realized they weren't leading anywhere and decided to join the Army.

Mr. Delorenzo credits his service in the military with teaching him discipline, how to get the "job done," and simply growing up. He began at Fort Dix, New Jersey and then moved to Fort Benning, Georgia for advanced infantry training. His home base was Fort Ord, California, where he was a member of the Second Battalion 31st Infantry Trolley Company. Mr. Delorenzo was a member of the Headquarters Company and spent time in Alaska for winterized training, in Panama for jungle training, and in the Mojave Desert for desert training. He greatly values his military experience and the role it played in shaping his life.

After his time in the military, Mr. Delorenzo returned to New York City, where he founded his own small moving and delivery business, which he continues to operate. He returned to wrestling (and participated in a national championship) and his lifelong love for dance, theater, and music. He is a proud alum of Ballet Hispanico and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater and has participated in dance and theater performances throughout his life.

For decades, Mr. Delorenzo has made important contributions to our community through his professional and volunteer activities. He has been delivering meals for NYC Citymeals on Wheels through DOROT for over 40 years, and he was honored by NY1 as their "New Yorker of the Week" for his work bringing food, conversation, and social connection to countless homebound older New Yorkers.

He shared his passion for wrestling with young people for decades as a volunteer coach at the Westside YMCA, which recognized him as a "Volunteer of the Year." He has also been an active supporter of Theatre for the New City, where he's volunteered in many capacities.

Mr. Delorenzo lives on Roosevelt Island with his amazing wife, Farisha.



STEPHEN DELORENZO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

JOSHUA JOSE DIAZ

Joshua Jose Diaz served in the United States Army from 2011 to 2019 and obtained the rank of Specialist. He served active duty at the Joint Special Operations Command and was involved in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Mr. Diaz earned numerous awards for his service, including the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. He has Military Occupational Specialties in Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analysis.

Mr. Diaz is a community leader and public servant who works tirelessly to make sure the community is safe. Mr. Diaz transitioned into civilian life by becoming involved with the Co-op City Police Department in 2017.

In May 2019, Mr. Diaz was awarded Officer of the Month for preventing three thieves from fleeing the scene of a crime by way of a blockade using his police vehicle, which led to the apprehension of two of the thieves. In 2022, he was promoted to Sergeant with the Co-op City Police Department.

Mr. Diaz takes pride in selfless service, integrity, and teamwork. His ability to achieve a collective goal through hard work was garnered in the military, where he utilized these skills to lead his fellow officers through their tours of duty. He recognizes the importance of communication, adaptability and safety, and he continues to mentor future leaders in the Department.

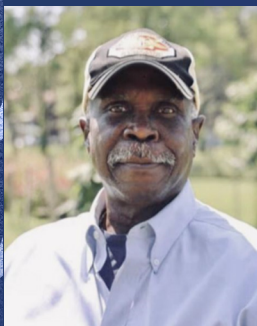
Born to Puerto Rican parents, Mr. Diaz was raised in Co-op City, where he still resides and serves the community. In his free time, he is a community leader in the Circle of Christ Church and mentors youth in the organization through faith. He supports the next generation of leaders through his commitment and dedication to the community.

Mr. Diaz is married and has a newborn child.



JOSHUA JOSE DIAZ WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

HERBERT J. DUNMORE, JR.

Herbert J. Dunmore, Jr. served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Sergeant E-5.

Mr. Dunmore's assignments included Vietnam from 1966 to 1968 after being drafted at 19 years of age. At the time, he was attending night school.

His units of service included Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Mr. Dunmore's tours of duty included Fort Hamilton, New York; Fort Ord, California; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Riley, Kansas; and Vietnam.

Six months after being drafted, Mr. Dunmore was engaged in combat in Vietnam. His patrol group was walking when an enemy mine exploded under them in 1966. Shrapnel cut through his face, elbow, and leg. Mr. Dunmore spent seven weeks in the hospital and was awarded a Purple Heart, an honor given to military members wounded or killed while serving.

Upon returning home, Mr. Dunmore became an instructor to special education students in the basics of math, science and reading. He helped develop lesson plans and behavioral and academic improvement plans to ensure timely graduation from middle school and high school. He is also a retired Technology Sales Executive.

Currently, Mr. Dunmore is actively involved with the community to create a monument that commemorates the contributions of current military members and veterans of color from Syracuse. The monument is planned for Kirk Park on the City's South Side, located in the historical Black districts in Syracuse.

Mr. Dunmore is the Post Commander for American Legion Dunbar Post 1642 – one of the oldest all-Black veterans' legions in the country. The Dunbar Post began in 1947 as a social space for Black veterans in Syracuse.

Born in Harlem, he relocated to Syracuse in 1976 and married his wife, Linda. He is proud of their two sons, Herbert Jay and Vernon, and has seven grandchildren.



**HERBERT J. DUNMORE, JR. WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR RACHEL MAY.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

CHESTER EDWARDS

Chester Edwards served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1972 and obtained the rank of E-3 Engineman/Fireman. In 2003, he enlisted in the New York State Guard and retired with the rank of Colonel in 2018.

While in the Navy, his tour included combat duty in Vietnam as an Assault Support Patrol Boat Coxswain with the Mobile Riverine Force from 1968 to 1969. He earned numerous recognitions including two Navy Achievement Medals with Combat "V," Combat Action Ribbon, and two Presidential Unit Citations.

Mr. Edwards returned to civilian life and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Marymount College. He spent over 35 years as a corporate financial executive and financial consultant at numerous companies in the tri-state area. In 2002, Mr. Edwards joined the NYC Teaching Fellows program, where he earned a Master of Science in Education from Pace University. He spent the last 12 years of his career as a middle and high school teacher and Dean of Students at the Choir Academy of Harlem.

After the tragic events of 9/11, Mr. Edwards enlisted in the New York State Guard, where he served from 2003 to 2018, including a six-week deployment during Super Storm Sandy in 2012. For his service, Mr. Edwards earned the NYS Medal for Meritorious Service and the NYS Military Commendation Medal.

Currently, Mr. Edwards is Executive Director of the Westchester County Veterans Alliance, Inc., board member of both Hudson Valley Honor Flight and ProVetus, Inc., and Peer Mentor & Mentor Coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Track of the Middletown City Court. He serves as a member of the Board of Visitors of the NYS Veterans Home at Montrose. Since 2022, he has been a keynote speaker at veterans events, where he shares the personal story of his time serving in Vietnam.

He has continued to serve and is Vice President of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 49, Post Service Officer with American Legion Post 90, and a member of VFW Post 1156 and the Knights of Columbus (Council 503 and Assembly 692) in Westchester County.

Mr. Edwards lives in Port Chester with his wife of 51 years, Mary. He is the proud father of two daughters and the proud grandfather of two granddaughters.



CHESTER EDWARDS WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR SHELLEY B. MAYER.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL ENGEL, JR.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Engel, Jr. enlisted in the New York Air National Guard in 1996 as a Turbo-Prop Mechanic. After serving two years, he then enlisted in the New York Army National Guard as an 11H TOW Missile Gunner. He is a graduate of the Officer Candidate School and is a qualified Army Aviator in the OH-58A/C Kiowa, UH-1H Huey, and UH-60A/L/M Blackhawk helicopters.

Upon graduating from U.S. Army Flight School in 2003, he was assigned to Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Assault Helicopter Battalion as a Platoon Leader and UH-60 Blackhawk Pilot. In 2004, the 42nd Infantry Division was mobilized to Iraq and assumed command before the unit left stateside.

LTC Engel took an administrative reduction and was appointed as a Chief Warrant Officer serving in aviation units throughout New York State. In 2012, he was re-appointed to Captain and assigned as the Aviation Material Officer. His successive assignments included Logistics Officer (S-4) of the 3-142nd AHB, and upon promotion to Major, he became the S-4 of the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade. He also commanded Bravo Company, 642nd Aviation Support Battalion, and he served as Operations Officer of the 3-142 AHB and Executive Officer (XO) of 3-142 AHB. He is currently assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division in Troy, New York.

He was in combat operations, and his tours of duty included Task Force Liberty, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Inherent Resolve until May 2023.

A true patriot, he has earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Senior Army Aviator Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with campaign star, and many more.

As a civilian, LTC Paul Engel, Jr. is employed by the New York State Police as a non-sworn helicopter pilot. He lives in Albany with his wife, Sharon, and they are the proud parents of three children, Jack, Sadie, and Veda.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL ENGEL, JR. WAS SELECTED
AS A 2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR NEIL D. BRESLIN.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

JAMES FITZGERALD

James Fitzgerald served in the United States Army and obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant E-6.

Mr. Fitzgerald is a highly decorated veteran of the Army, where he served for nine years in the Infantry; his deployments included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He received the Purple Heart for his injuries sustained during combat in Afghanistan while serving with the 101st Airborne Division. In 2014, he was medically retired and honorably discharged from the military.

In 2014, Mr. Fitzgerald moved to New York City and, most notably, served as the Deputy Director of the NYC Veterans Alliance. There, he established strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and government agencies, and he managed organizational policy initiatives at local, State and federal levels in support of veterans.

Steadfast in his mission, Mr. Fitzgerald worked to ensure the pressing matters impacting veterans and their families were addressed and continuously created sustainable solutions for them. Mr. Fitzgerald has spoken on behalf of veterans in major media outlets including *Time*, Fox News, PBS, *Military Times*, and NY1.

Previously, Mr. Fitzgerald interned at the White House during the Obama Administration. He worked with First Lady Michelle Obama on Joining Forces, an initiative connecting service members, veterans, and their families with public and private sector resources in education, employment and wellness.

He graduated with honors from the City University of New York (CUNY), Medgar Evers College, where he majored in Public Administration with a focus on Law and Public Policy.

Mr. Fitzgerald is originally from Tennessee and currently resides in Bushwick, Brooklyn. He continued his service to the local community through his appointment to Brooklyn Community Board #4 (Bushwick). He was a member of the Committee on Health/Human Services/Senior Citizens/Veterans and was elected as Recording Secretary of Brooklyn Community Board #4.



JAMES FITZGERALD WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JULIA SALAZAR.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

PETER FIUMEFREDDO

Peter Fiumefreddo served as a Private First Class in the United States Army.

Mr. Fiumefreddo, of Hawthorne, was born in East Harlem, New York, and raised in the Bronx. After being drafted into the Army in 1963, he was stationed at Camp Smith as a soldier in the 8th Division, 1st Battalion 87th Infantry Heavy Weapons Platoon. During the Berlin Crisis, his unit deployed to Baumholder, Germany, where he was a Gunner on the 81mm mortar and 106 recoilless rifle. In April 1965, he received orders to return to Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, where he was honorably discharged.

Mr. Fiumefreddo has 30 years of experience working for non-profit organizations focused on veterans affairs and community outreach. He is the Founder and Chairman of the New York State Medal of Honor Committee. He was instrumental in the installation of the Medal of Honor monument on the grounds of Mount Pleasant's Town Hall, as well as organizing parades honoring Medal of Honor recipients. He currently serves as the Commander of Hawthorne Post 112, American Legion, and has been an active board member of the Selective Service Draft Board for the past 16 years.

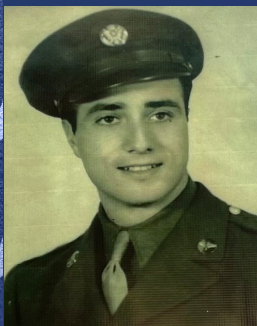
Previously, Mr. Fiumefreddo worked for the U.S. Census Bureau as a Partnership Specialist and Team Leader, developing outreach plans to maximize veterans' participation in the 2000 and 2010 censuses. He served as the chairman of the Grand Marshals for the Columbus Day Parade on 5th Avenue for more than 25 years, and he also served on the housing and zoning committee of Bronx Community Board 10. As a community leader, he ran the Food Program & Summer Jobs for youth in the Bronx community.

Mr. Fiumefreddo has received various awards and honors for his service work, including the Westchester County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Award, New York State Army Recruiting, Support and Dedication Award, and 17th Congressional District Veterans Community Award.



PETER FIUMEFREDDO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
**SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND
NYS SENATE MAJORITY LEADER.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

JOSEPH A. GENTILUOMO

Joseph A. Gentiluomo, age 101, of Schenectady, New York was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army. He served in combat in the Pacific Theater during World War II as part of the “Greatest Generation” of Americans who saved our world from tyranny.

Mr. Gentiluomo served in the Army from 1942 to 1946 under the 59th Service Group. After basic training, Mr. Gentiluomo attended the National School of Aeronautics in Kansas City. He was later assigned to the machine shops at various airfields in Santa Maria, Sacramento, San Bernadino, and the Mojave Desert in California.

While stationed in the Pacific, Mr. Gentiluomo serviced B-24 Liberator bombers on Angaur Island in the Palau Islands, and later Okinawa. Mr. Gentiluomo's technical expertise, as part of the team that helped repair and maintain American aircraft, helped keep his fellow service members safe during military campaigns in the Philippines, Ryukyus, and the Western Pacific. He was a critical part of the overall war effort that contributed to victory in the Pacific against Imperial Japan. Mr. Gentiluomo's unit was later sent to Seoul, South Korea for post-war occupation duty.

For his service and valor, Mr. Gentiluomo received numerous commendations and awards, including the American Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

After World War II ended, Mr. Gentiluomo returned home, graduated from RPI, and worked for GE and IBM. He holds 28 patents including for different golf balls and a mechanical hand that was used by NASA.

Most notably, Mr. Gentiluomo is the inventor of the modern bowling ball. Mr. Gentiluomo's bowling ball patent puts all the weight on the inside of the bowling ball, giving bowlers more power to knock the pins down.

Mr. Gentiluomo was married to the late Orega Gentiluomo for 67 years. They have two children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



JOSEPH A. GENTILUOMO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JAMES N. TEDISCO.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RYAN GRAHAM

Ryan Graham served in the United States Air Force and achieved the rank of Senior Airman/E-4.

An Air Force and Iraq War veteran from Queens, New York, Mr. Graham enlisted after the horrific 9/11 terror attacks on our Nation. Mr. Graham's military service spanned six years, from the 52nd Fighter Wing in Germany, working within the A4 directorate of the Air Force Special Operations Command headquarters at Hurlburt Field, Florida, to the Logistics Support Center under Air Combat Command headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia. He was also deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Camp Sather, Baghdad International Airport.

Since returning home, Mr. Graham has been active in the veteran community and the VFW. Among his various roles, he served as the Queens County Council VFW Commander from 2014 to 2018, representing 2,000 members throughout 20 posts. Today, Mr. Graham continues serving through policy initiatives as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee for District 1, as well as the Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs for the Department of New York VFW.

Locally, Mr. Graham is the Commander of the Flanders Field VFW Post 150 in Corona, currently working on revitalization initiatives to continue its 100-plus- year history and legacy for both veterans and the community. Outside of the veterans service organization sphere, Mr. Graham serves on the Veterans Advisory Council for the Queens District Attorney's office, served on Queens Community Board 10, and was selected to serve on the New York City Veterans Advisory Board by the Speaker of the New York City Council.

Professionally, Mr. Graham has more than 20 years of experience in the supply chain management and operations industries, including military, corporate, and aerospace sectors. He holds a Bachelor of Science from St. John's University and a Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University.

When he isn't working, Mr. Graham and his wife travel. He is currently at work on several writing projects, including a novel and memoir.



RYAN GRAHAM WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

FREDERICK GUNDEL

Frederick Gundel served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Specialist.

A proud Army veteran, Mr. Gundel was a Specialist with the 120th Assault Helicopter Company from 1970 through 1972 during the Vietnam War.

For his bravery and service to our Nation, Mr. Gundel earned numerous awards and recognitions, including the Overseas Service Medal, National Defense Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

A staunch advocate on behalf of veterans, Mr. Gundel continues to champion veterans' issues as Commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans Frank Kowalinski Post #4 since 2012.

Mr. Gundel is a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 551, a Lifetime Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 31, a member of the American Legion, and volunteer at the Saint Albans VA Hospital. Mr. Gundel is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Maspeth Lions Club.

An avid fan of country music, Mr. Gundel has been a resident of Maspeth, New York since 1983.



FREDERICK GUNDEL WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

CHARLES LEE HINKLEMAN SR.

Charles Lee Hinkleman Sr. served in the United States Army. He retired after 22 years with the rank of Sergeant First Class, E-7.

He was a Senior Intelligence Analyst, PSNCO, and an Army Recruiter. He served in Germany, Guam, and various stateside assignments. Mr. Hinkleman held a variety of roles, including 331st General Hospital Personnel Staff Supervisor, Administrative Supervisor in the 368th Military Police Company, Barrigada, Guam, Human Resource Manager in the 70th Division in Fort Benning, Georgia, and as the 826th Military Intelligence Battalion Senior Intelligence Analyst.

Mr. Hinkleman is a highly decorated veteran who earned numerous awards and commendations, including a Recruiter Ring, Army Commendation Medal (6th award), Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), Good Conduct Medal (6th award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Non-commissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Military Volunteer Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with rifle bar, U.S. Army Gold Recruiter Badge with 3 sapphire achievement stars, U.S. Army Basic Recruiter Badge with 1 gold achievement star, and an Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd award).

Upon leaving the military, he worked as the Liaison to the Oneida Indian Nation Land Claim for the Oneida County Executive. Then he accepted a position as Communications Manager for the Maple Ridge Windfarm and moved to Lewis County. Following that, he worked as Director of Public Relations for Otis Technology.

He has served in numerous leadership positions in Lewis and Oneida counties, from President of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce to Vice President of the Lewis County Development Corporation. Mr. Hinkleman is currently the President of the Lowville Business Association. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the ARC Foundation (and as treasurer) and is Co-Chair of the Lowville Cream Cheese Festival.

He has a Facebook food blog, "Eating in Upstate New York and Beyond," which has over twenty thousand followers. He also writes restaurant articles for the *NNY Living* magazine.

Mr. Hinkleman is the Legislative Chairman for the American Legion Department of New York and Vice Legislative Chairman at the national level. He currently serves as Commander of Post 162 in Lowville and Lewis County Commander.

He and his wife, Cathy, have three children and nine grandchildren.



CHARLES LEE HINKLEMAN SR. WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR MARK WALCZYK.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

ANN MARIE HOGANCAMP

Ann Marie Hogancamp served in the United States Army from 2004 to 2009 as a Motor Transportation Operator and obtained the rank of E-4 Specialist. She was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; E-co 1/505th Inf. Reg., 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

Ms. Hogancamp's deployments included Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 to 2006 and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) from 2008 to 2009. She was due to end her active-duty service in 2008, but was involuntarily recalled to fulfill her unit's Afghanistan deployment, which she completed in 2009. As a Motor Transportation Operator, she conducted hundreds of convoys on some of the most dangerous routes in the world.

For her service, she earned numerous awards and accommodations, including the Army's Combat Action Badge, Army Achievement Medal (third award), Army Commendation Medal (third award), and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Ms. Hogancamp joined the VFW when home on leave in 2006 and has since held various positions, including her current role as Post Commander of VFW Post 1449 in Endicott. She is the Chairman of the Western Broome County Parade Committee, where she helps organize and operate the local parades for both Memorial Day and Veterans Day. After each parade, she emcees the commemorative ceremony at the community's veteran park. Along with the VFW, she is a member of the American Legion, the DAV, and holds positions on many community committees.

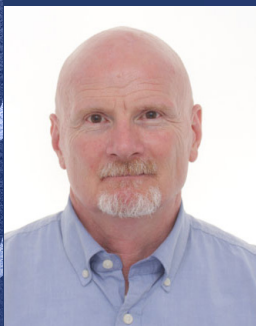
Throughout her trials and tribulations, she has been fortunate to have a strong support system of family and friends. She says that without these people, she would not be here today and feels that everyone deserves to have that same support, guidance, and encouragement.

Ms. Hogancamp has dedicated herself to helping fellow veterans in her community and beyond. For her, helping others is therapeutic. As one of the thousands of United States veterans that suffers from PTSD, she has learned that helping others cope throughout turbulent times helps lessen her symptoms. Her volunteerism and staunch advocacy have made an impact on her community and those around her.



**ANN MARIE HOGANCAMP WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR LEA WEBB.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

CHRISTOPHER HOLSHEK

Christopher Holshek served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Colonel.

Mr. Holshek is an international peace and security consultant and civil-military director at Narrative Strategies. In his 30 years as a U.S. Army Civil Affairs officer, his assignments included: command of the first Civil Affairs battalion deployed to Iraq; Chief of Civil-Military Coordination for the UN Mission in Liberia; and European Command Military Representative at the U.S. Agency for International Development. He continues to serve as Vice President of the Civil Affairs Association.

He has been a senior civil-military advisor for the NATO “Resilient Civilians in Hybrid and Population-Centric Warfare” and Grey Zone projects. For his services then and since, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command inducted him as a Distinguished Member of the Civil Affairs Regiment in 2017.

Mr. Holshek has also harnessed his extraordinary experiences worldwide as a writer. In addition to his contributions to U.S. Army, Joint, NATO, and UN civil-military policy and doctrine, he has published in *Foreign Policy*, *The Huffington Post*, *Sicherheit & Frieden*, and the *Modern War Institute*.

The impetus of Mr. Holshek’s civic work with the American Legion Riders of Orange County, New York is in his book: *Travels with Harley – Journeys in Search of Personal and National Identity*. With the County Youth Bureau and others, his National Service Ride project helps local schools mobilize youth to better themselves, their community, and their country through service-learning under the New York State’s Seal of Civic Readiness Program.

Another initiative, starting in 2024, will enable high school seniors and young veterans to escort senior veterans on Hudson Valley Honor Flight missions, helping to pass the baton of leadership from one generation of Americans to the next.

Mr. Holshek and his wife, Rosa Zorzo, who works for the UN Refugee Agency, reside on the Hudson River in New Windsor, not far from his birthplace in Cornwall. Through his network of veteran and service organizations, he facilitated an effective response to the needs of the Highland Falls and Fort Montgomery communities during the July 2023 flood disaster.

Mr. Holshek’s commitment to his neighbors, other veterans, his country, and our youth is extraordinary and unwavering.



CHRISTOPHER HOLSHEK WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JAMES SKOUFIS.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

MARIE CARMEL HOUANCHE

Marie Carmel Houanche served in the United States Army. A commissioned officer, she was Second Lieutenant and Assistant Chaplain.

Ms. Houanche was a member of the 8th Medical Brigade, Army Nurse Corps. She was assigned to the 344th Combat Support Hospital. Her primary MOS was 66H, secondary 66C (teachery 66J). The unit was activated and deployed to Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Faith has guided Ms. Houanche throughout her life and career, resulting in her becoming an ordained pastor. Born in Haiti, she grew up in Paris and eventually immigrated to the United States. Ms. Houanche always had a penchant for learning and attended the Borough of Manhattan Community College, earning an Associate Degree in Nursing, followed by a Bachelor's Degree from Medgar Evers College. She continued her education at Downstate University with a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration.

Currently, Ms. Houanche is Co-Pastor of L'Eglise Baptiste Des Seraphim and L'Eglise De la Nouvelle Jerusalem. She has served on the executive board committees for the NAACP and NAN, and has worked with several organizations including Haitian Sports Foundation, providing medical, cultural and educational support to the team.

In 2010, she assisted in cleanup efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and founded the Houanche-Wasembeck Foundation. In 2010, as led by and with His vision, she became President and Founder of the Church of God and Christian Children Academy. On May 18, 2010, she started building a Christian center in Haiti to serve the community at large by offering educational, health and wellness resources to both adults and youth. This epic undertaking included a church, an elementary and secondary school, a soup kitchen, an orphanage, a retreat center, and a vocational Bible school.

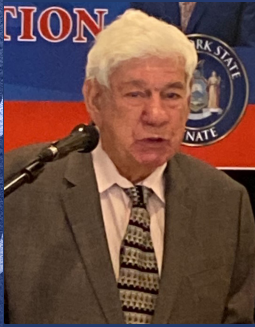
A staunch advocate and community servant, she is the Vice President of the National Action Network in Valley Stream, New York; Branch Member/Vice President of West Nassau Chapter of the National Action Network; NAACP Health Education Committee Chair of the NAACP; HAPAC of NY; and a member of the American Legion William Clinton Post #342.

Ms. Houanche has lived in Freeport for over 25 years. She is widowed and a proud mother of five adult children.



MARIE CARMEL HOUANCHE WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR KEVIN THOMAS.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RICHIE JARCHO

Richie Jarcho served as a Private First Class in the United States Army.

A man with a deep sense of duty and compassion, Mr. Jarcho embarked on his military journey by proactively moving up in the draft to serve his country. In 1958, he underwent basic training at Fort Dix before being stationed as a cook at Fort Benning, Georgia. However, destiny had other plans, as he was deployed to Korea on General Mann's troop ship alongside 5,000 others. Assigned to a signal outfit, Mr. Jarcho's adaptability and quick learning led him to take care of generators despite having no prior experience.

Upon returning home, Mr. Jarcho's commitment to service remained undiminished. When President Kennedy recalled troops due to the Berlin Crisis, he willingly rejoined and served at Fort Eustis, Virginia until his honorable discharge in 1961. Following his military career, he began selling marble and glass tables for his cousin.

Mr. Jarcho's journey of charity began approximately 23 years ago, triggered by a heart-rending story about a disabled veteran who lost his limbs in the war. His compassion and determination drove him to help veterans in need. Despite initial challenges, Mr. Jarcho persisted and established a tradition of distributing turkeys during major holidays, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. His efforts continued to grow, and he reached out to various organizations to expand his impact.

Recognizing the potential of equine therapy for veterans with PTSD, Mr. Jarcho adopted horses and partnered with sponsors to regularly provide life-changing treatment to veterans.

For his dedication and staunch support of veterans and their families, he has received numerous awards and recognitions.

Mr. Jarcho's life has been a testament to the power of volunteerism, empathy, and generosity. From his military service to his communal endeavors, he has left an indelible mark on the lives of veterans and the Rockland community, showing that a single individual's compassion can bring about profound positive change.



**RICHIE JARCHO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR BILL WEBER.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

WILLIAM R. JOYCE

William R. Joyce began his military service in 1972, when he was drafted into the United States Army. As a Specialist Fourth Class, he was stationed in Germany, guarding the eastern border with Czechoslovakia.

When his tour ended in 1975, Mr. Joyce returned home and began a 40-year civilian career with the New York State Police. He resumed his military service by enlisting in the Army Reserve, eventually rising through the ranks to become a Command Sergeant Major.

Since becoming Genesee County's Veterans Services Director more than a decade ago, Mr. Joyce has become known for going above and beyond to help veterans secure the benefits they have earned. Such dedication comes from his four decades of military service and an understanding of the sacrifices involved.

At Peterson Air Force Base, as General Eberhart's senior enlisted advisor, he developed a ceremony recognizing the inactivation of SPACECOM and the activation of U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). His work on the historic event, attended by General Shelton and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, earned him Challenge Coins for achieving a "joint ceremony like no other."

In 2012, Mr. Joyce retired from the military after 40 years of distinguished service, which included deployments to Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His achievements earned him multiple medals, including the Bronze Star. To this day, he is grateful to his family for their support during his extended absences.

As the Director of the County's Veterans Service Agency, Mr. Joyce has established the agency as a leader in the number of claims submitted on behalf of veterans for health care, education and other benefits.

He initiated rural outreach within and beyond his service area to help homebound veterans. He has assisted veterans as far away as the Philippines, and he takes satisfaction in having secured a 100 percent disability rating for two terminally ill veterans in record time, providing them with peace of mind that their spouses would receive survivor benefits.

Mr. Joyce continues to be active in many veterans' organizations and serves as the President of the Western New York National Cemetery Memorial Council.



WILLIAM R. JOYCE WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR GEORGE M. BORRELLO.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

HOWARD KALACHMAN

Howard Kalachman served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Specialist E-5. He is a Vietnam combat veteran and Bronze Star recipient who has dedicated his life to advancing the needs of veterans.

Mr. Kalachman's was among the first names to appear on the Nassau County Vietnam Veterans Wall in Eisenhower Park and the Long Beach Veterans Walk of Honor. He is a lifetime member of American Legion Post 972 and the Vice Commander and Finance Officer of Legion Post 335. He has served on the Nassau County United Veterans Organization and the Nassau County Veterans Advisory Board since 2017.

Mr. Kalachman is the author of the memoir *"Hi Mom, I'm O.K.": and Other Lies From Vietnam*, which he describes as, "...not so much a story of heroes in the usual sense, but a reminder of and dedicated to the sacrifices made by veterans and their loved ones."

In 2010, he became the veterans' consultant and liaison for the NYIT and New York State "Troops to Teachers" program, which places eligible veterans in teaching positions at public schools.

Passionate about helping his fellow service men and women, Mr. Kalachman advocates for veteran suicide prevention and worked as a volunteer suicide hotline manager. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, he spent many days at the Northport V.A. Hospital, serving his less fortunate brother and sister veterans on various goodwill visits.

Mr. Kalachman attends every opportunity to meet, greet, escort, and distribute needed items to homeless veterans. He has spent countless volunteer hours over the decades raising money and volunteering for the DAV, American Legion, VFW, Long Beach Waterfront Warriors, Peaceful Minds, and Hope for the Warrior, along with other numerous organizations.

Due to his steadfast commitment and dedication on behalf of veterans, Mr. Kalachman has earned numerous awards, including the Town of Hempstead Veterans Medal and the Nassau County Distinguished Service to Veterans Medal.

In addition to being a lifelong advocate for veterans, Mr. Kalachman enjoys volunteer pursuits that serve the community at large. He strongly believes in helping his brother and sister veterans and repeatedly backs that up with his actions. When it comes to lending a helping hand, he simply does not have the word "No" in his vocabulary.



HOWARD KALACHMAN WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY

SENATOR PATRICIA M. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

VANESSA A. LEE

Vanessa A. Lee served in the United States Air Force Reserve and retired at the rank of Technical Sergeant.

Ms. Lee joined the Reserve and became a member of the 49th and 35th Aerial Port Squadrons at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, retiring in 2005. Her tours of duty include Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Desert Storm.

A Supervisor in the Aerial Port Passenger Service section, she was responsible for servicing military and commercial airline passengers with ticketing reservations, coordinating civilian passenger and troop airline manifests while maintaining staff schedules, training records, and writing evaluations for promotion to the next rank. Ms. Lee received credits from the Community College of the Air Force in Transportation Logistics and was certified in 2000 as a travel agent.

Ms. Lee earned a Bachelor of Arts from York College (CUNY) and joined the New York City Department of Education in 1995. She worked as a Family Worker in the Guidance Office, while studying for a Master of Science in Counselor Education.

In 1997, Ms. Lee transitioned into a Licensed Guidance Counselor position, assisting students in grades 9-12 with academic advisement, intervention services, career exploration, and college readiness. She is a certified Global Career Development Facilitator, Career Development Specialist, College Admissions Specialist, and a certified School Career Development Advisor. After 25 years of school counselor experience, she retired in 2020. She started her own non-profit organization, What's Aspiring Me, in 2021.

She is a member of numerous organizations, including the New York chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women, Vital Church NYC, American School Counselor Association, and the Association of Black Educators of New York. Ms. Lee is also a member of New York State School Counselor Association, New York State Career Development Association, National Career Development Association, and National Action Network. She also serves as a volunteer and community liaison every Tuesday at the Zion Tabernacle Church Food Pantry.

In 2017, Ms. Lee was honored during Women's History Month as a Woman of Character, Courage and Commitment. Her proudest moment is when she purchased her own home at the age of 29.



VANESSA A. LEE WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR LEROY COMRIE.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

GREGORY T. LEE

Gregory T. Lee served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and obtained the rank of Lance Corporal. He served in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1970.

Mr. Lee enlisted in the USMC on May 2, 1968. After completing basic training, he was deployed to Vietnam. He was assigned to Co K, 3rd Marine Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, FMF. His division fought in search and destroy missions against enemy forces in the Quang Nam Province. During Operation Oklahoma Hills, Mr. Lee was seriously injured in a mortar explosion. He suffered multiple wounds, including to both of his legs and to his right arm, resulting in amputation.

In January 1970, Mr. Lee moved to Peru, New York and was discharged from military service on March 31, 1970. Despite this discharge, he attempted to re-enlist in the Marine Corps, stating he “could do with one arm what any man could do with two arms.”

For his valor and service to our Nation, Mr. Lee earned numerous recognitions, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the National Services Defense Medal.

Mr. Lee moved on and entered federal civilian employment at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, where he served in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department from 1970 to 1991. In this role, he provided direct services to veterans, including driving them to receive medical care at the VA Hospital in Albany, New York.

After retirement, Mr. Lee organized and participated in a variety of programs and services for Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion Posts.

Since 2013, Mr. Lee has served as a volunteer for the Honor Flight in Plattsburgh. He has dedicated countless hours and energy to signing up veterans for flights, arranging sites to be visited in Washington, D.C., and organizing the welcoming and return ceremonies for the veterans.

Due to his distinguished service record and commitment to helping the fellow veterans in his community, Mr. Lee is an exemplary person and a deserving honoree for the 2023 New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.



**GREGORY T. LEE WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR DANIEL G. STEC.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

JAMES LINT

James Lint is a veteran of the United States Air Force who served in Vietnam. He obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

A resident of North Collins, New York, Mr. Lint was an enlisted serviceman from 1972 to 1978.

Mr. Lint is a staunch advocate in his community. He is President of the North Collins Veterans Tribute, which is located along the National Veterans Highway in North Collins. The Tribute's mission is "to have a peaceful site to recognize and honor those who served and those who continue to serve this great Nation which promotes freedom and democracy."

The Tribute consists of a 5-point star, with each point of the star designated for each branch of the United States Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

A flag of each United States military branch stands at the point of the stars. A polished granite monument in the shape of a V for victory with a pair of hands holding a bowl with an eternal flame sits in the center of the Tribute. Mr. Lint calls it a labor of love in honor of those who have given so much to our country.

Mr. Lint is an active member and former Vice President of the North Collins Senior Center and a member of the North Collins Zoning Board of Appeals. He also serves on the Schoolhouse #8 Board, which is working to restore a historic schoolhouse in North Collins. Always one to lend a helping hand, Mr. Lint also volunteers to help those from outside of his community. During the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, he answered the call for help by loading his truck with bottled water and delivering it to residents in need.

An active member of American Legion Post 1640, Mr. Lint has received numerous recognitions. In December 2020, he was honored as a Veteran of the Month by former Representative Chris Jacobs and was featured on WYRK's "Salute to Seniors," which recognizes senior citizens who have enriched the lives of those in Western New York.

Mr. Lint's steadfast support of veterans and service to the North Collins community have earned him the admiration and respect of everyone who meets him.



JAMES LINT WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR PATRICK M. GALLIVAN.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

MIKE LIQUORI

Mike Liquori served in the United States Army and obtained the rank of Corporal E-4.

A native of Corona, Queens, he enlisted following his graduation from Newtown High School. After completing basic training, he went to Advanced Individual Training and received his certification as a Medical Aid.

Deployed to Korea, Mr. Liquori was assigned to a Medivac Unit, where he had the critical job of evacuating the wounded from combat zones. Mr. Liquori received multiple awards for his service during the Korean War in the early 1950s, including the Combat Infantry Badge and the Korean Defense Medal.

Mr. Liquori is retired from the Plumbers Local 1 Union and gives back to his community by remaining active in numerous groups and organizations. He is member of the Charity Masonic Lodge 727 NYC and held the position of Commander. He is the current Senior Vice Commander of Flanders Field VFW Post 150 Lion Tamer in the Corona Lion's Club. He is the Sergeant at Arms for the 110th Precinct Community Council. Mr. Liquori's dedication to his neighbors is exemplified by his service alongside community groups and the numerous events he volunteers at to help make them successful.

Mr. Liquori's volunteer service includes the Perna Foundation for Kids, where he offers his military experience as a guide for the Corona Cadet Corps. He also supports the coordination of Queens Community Board 4 meetings, and the cleaning and beautification of local parks. He is known as the "BBQ Master" for all Council events, including National Night Out Against Crime.

Service to his Queens community has included supplying meals to displaced residents during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Always there to lend a helping hand, he distributed food and supplies to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He married his lifelong sweetheart, Dorothy, who passed away in 2021 after 66 years of marriage. Together, they raised four wonderful children: Michael, Robert, Joseph, and Rosemary. They are grandparents to 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

To this day, Mr. Liquori remains an example within the Queens community and for his family.

He is the personification of selfless service and leads by example to those around him.



MIKE LIQUORI WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JESSICA RAMOS.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

HERBERT C. LOESCH

Herbert C. Loesch served in the United States Army. He was a medic with the 24th Division, obtaining the rank of Sergeant 12T.

Mr. Loesch exemplifies what it means to be a patriotic American and proud military veteran. A decorated Army veteran, Mr. Loesch's military career began when he enlisted in 1952, following his education at Alfred University, where he majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry, receiving a Bachelor of Arts.

After basic training at Camp Pickett in Virginia, Mr. Loesch received advanced medical training at Fort Devens in Massachusetts. After training, he was deployed to Korea.

For his service to our Nation, Mr. Loesch earned numerous recognitions and accolades, including the Korean Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (ROKDA), United Nations Service Medal, and the National DEF Service Medal.

In 1954, Mr. Loesch was honorably discharged from the Army. He became actively involved in the Barker Chapter of the American Legion Post #425, as well as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Loesch collects, maintains, and proudly displays military memorabilia at his home, including a collection of more than 1,000 toy Jeeps. He keeps a prominent military display of World War II and Korean War items at Barker High School, utilizing these collections to discuss our Nation's military history and encourage young people to pursue careers in the armed forces.

During local parades, Mr. Loesch can be found in the lineup with his restored World War II Willys Jeep, wearing his full military uniform. He remains an active member in his community and serves as Treasurer in his church and Treasurer to the Western New York John Deere Club. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge #639 and volunteers to place flags at military gravesites.

Mr. Loesch currently lives in Barker with his longtime partner, Grace. His two children also reside in New York.



**HERBERT C. LOESCH WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ROBERT G. ORTT.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

ALEXANDER MANDARA

Alexander Mandara served in the United States Navy and obtained the rank of First Class Petty Officer, E-6.

Mr. Mandara was born on September 11, 1972, in the Bronx, New York and is the oldest of five siblings. He attended PS8 Elementary in Yonkers until 6th grade and PS32 for middle school.

After he graduated from Roosevelt High School at the age of 17, he decided to serve his country by joining the Navy, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who served in the United States Army.

Mr. Mandara started boot camp in 1990. He then went to school to study HTA (Hull Tech). In 1991, he began his service on the USS Enterprise in the Gulf War, where he served his Nation for the next five years.

Continuing his service for 22 years in the Reserve, Mr. Mandara was stationed on the USS Ogden. He traveled to many different locations, including Guam, Italy, Spain, Hawaii, Africa, Puerto Rico, Cadiz, Kuwait, Gulf of Gibraltar, Corsica, and France. After the September 11th attacks, he spent days on the pile until he was called to active duty.

Mr. Mandara started working for Entergy Nuclear, where he is still employed. He also works as an umpire for the WCBUA Section 1 High School Baseball, EBUA Travel.

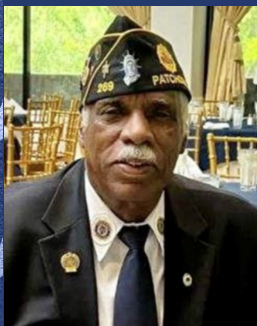
He is the Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8328 in Yorktown, New York. Mr. Mandara greatly values his work at the VFW, where he can connect with other veterans and coordinate programs and services to assist veterans and their families. A dedicated and passionate member of his Yorktown community, he feels very fortunate to have met so many great people.

Mr. Mandara married his wife, Annamaria, on November 23, 2001, which was one of the best decisions he ever made in his life. She has been at his side ever since, and has helped support him through it all and carry the family. On July 23, 2008, their daughter, Gianna Maria Mandara, was born and is a beautiful blessing to their family.



ALEXANDER MANDARA WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR PETE HARCKHAM.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

DAVID MANN

David Mann served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1974 and retired at the rank of Sergeant.

Most notably, Mr. Mann was a Combat Engineer in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. In October 1968 and February 1969, he became the recipient of two Purple Hearts for missions in South Vietnam. He has also been awarded three Army Commendations with "V" devices for heroism. Along with those honors, former Governor Mario Cuomo presented him with the Conspicuous Service Medal in 1985.

Two years after graduating high school, Mr. Mann was drafted into the Army in 1968. His Basic Training was completed at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, and he finished his Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. While in Vietnam, Mr. Mann served as a Machine Gunner for his company, as well as the battalion commanders. He then underwent training as an AVL driver and an APC operator for the portable bridge deployment unit of the Army's 9th Infantry Division.

Mr. Mann dropped bridges five times for several mechanized units in the Mekong Delta. While in the Ben Tre Province, his track was demolished. This S&D mission was the reason Mr. Mann received his second Purple Heart. Several years later, he was honorably discharged in May 1974, with a rank of SGT E-5.

For 10 years, Mr. Mann has acted as the Chaplain for AL Post 269 in Patchogue, New York. He became a Life Member there this past September, and he also boasts a Life Membership with Patchogue's VFW Post-2913.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on November 22, 1947, Mr. Mann commuted to and from his grandparents' residence on Long Island. In 1966, he graduated from Port Jefferson's Earl L. Vandermeulen High School. Besides his military honors, Mr. Mann is also blessed to be a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Due to his military service, Mr. Mann has experienced PTSD. Additionally, his exposure to Agent Orange in South Vietnam created physical complications for his eldest daughter, Tori, who passed away at 51 years old. Despite those trials, Mr. Mann's family preserves a strong connection. Most impressively, next year will mark 50 years of being together with his beloved wife, Kathi.



DAVID MANN WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR DEAN MURRAY.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

PETER MARADAY

Peter Maraday served in the United States Air Force and New York Air National Guard for 24 years, retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant.

Mr. Maraday served as an Aircraft Data Systems Analyst and Database Manager within the Aircraft Maintenance Complex, first at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida from March 1982 to April 1983, and then at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York from April 1983 to November 1985, working with F-106 and T-33 aircraft.

Honorably discharged from the Air Force, he joined the 105th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard at Stewart Air National Guard Base in December 1985. Eventually, he took a position as an Active Guard/Reservist. He worked in several positions, including Resource Management, Logistics, Aircraft Data Systems Analysis, and Database Management.

In 1998, Mr. Maraday became the supervisor of the Analysis and Data Automation Section and maintained that position for eight years. As the first unit in the history of the Air National Guard to maintain and fly the C-5A Galaxy, the 105th directly supported every major military operation and relief effort for numerous natural disasters throughout the world.

Following his retirement, Mr. Maraday spent the next 13 years in the corporate sector as a Software Technical Analyst with Epicor/Aptos and Statistical Analyst with President Container Group. In January 2021, he was hired by Clear Path for Veterans, a statewide veteran service organization, as the first Hudson Valley Peer Support Manager for the region, where he effectively managed all aspects of the Peer Support program across eight counties.

In 2023, Mr. Maraday was promoted to his present position as the Hudson Valley Regional Manager. He is responsible for ensuring strategic goals and objectives are achieved, while providing world-class service and support to veterans, military members, and families.

Mr. Maraday holds an Associate of Science in Maintenance Production Management and completed several courses, including Quality Awareness, Lockheed-Georgia Company Planners and Supervisors, multiple U.S. Air Force Leadership courses, and the VA Whole Health Partner course.

A lifelong resident of Orange County, he resides in the Town of Montgomery with his beloved wife of 29 years, Barbara. They have three grown children.



PETER MARADAY WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ROB ROLISON.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

HECTOR CARMELO MONTES

Hector Carmelo Montes served in the United States Army as a Medic.

Mr. Montes joined the United States Armed Forces in 1966 and proudly served until 1969. His military career was the beginning of his lifelong calling of caring for, helping, and healing others.

In the 1950s, when Mr. Montes was just a young boy, his family came to New York City from Puerto Rico. They set down roots in the East Harlem neighborhood, where Mr. Montes remains to this day.

His military journey began in 1966 when he was drafted into the Armed Forces to serve in the Vietnam War. He was stationed at a medical hospital and was responsible for the emergency treatment of wounded and injured soldiers and troops. Mr. Montes attributes his military service to the acquisition of valuable skills and training that continued to benefit him throughout his extensive medical career.

Upon returning from war, Mr. Montes continued his path in the medical field by joining the newly opened Dialysis Unit at New York Hospital. He spent the remainder of his career caring for innumerable patients at New York Hospital as a Dialysis Technician. Mr. Montes retired after 25 years of dedicated and skillful service to his community.

Mr. Montes is not only a distinguished veteran, but also a talented artist and musician. In his free time, he enjoys painting and playing music. He shares his talents with his community by volunteering at the Corsi Older Adult Center in East Harlem to teach fellow seniors how to paint, draw, and play guitar.

Mr. Montes has selflessly dedicated his life to helping and healing those in his community and all around him. He resides in East Harlem with his wife, Laura, where the two have been married for 53 years. Together, they have two sons who also call New York City their home.



HECTOR CARMELO MONTES WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JOSÉ M. SERRANO.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

THOMAS MOONEY

Thomas Mooney was inducted into the United States Army on June 7, 1967 at the age of 20. He was honorably discharged as a Specialist 4 on April 11, 1969.

Born on February 14, 1947, Mr. Mooney worked at the age of 17 as an old-fashioned elevator operator for William A. White.

After returning from the service, Mr. Mooney went on to work at New York Telephone in the Bronx, New York. While working full time, he attended night school at Herbert H. Lehman, earning a degree in accounting. Mr. Mooney, diligent in his studies, furthered his education by attending Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University. He became an auditor and engineer.

Mr. Mooney was an active member in Smithtown of American Legion Post 833, the VFW Post 10870, and the Veterans of the Vietnam War.

He served as a Service Officer in both the American Legion and VFW helping veterans with obtaining benefits and services from the VA. He assisted numerous veterans and their families by connecting them with much-needed programs and people that help with paying bills, getting food, or obtaining employment.

Mr. Mooney was the organizer of the VFW Voice of Democracy Essay Contest. He administered the annual essay contest for students in grades 9 through 12, who were enrolled in Smithtown High School East and West, as well as Hauppauge High School. The contest allows students to express themselves by putting together a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The winner of the contest has an opportunity to win a scholarship of up to \$35,000.

When he worked with the Veterans of the Vietnam War, he assisted veterans through participating in programs such as the Beacon House and the Military Support Package Project.



THOMAS MOONEY IS HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY
AS A 2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR MARIO R. MATTERA.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

CHARLES A. NAVARINO

Charles A. Navarino was a Private First Class in the United States Army. In 1951, Mr. Navarino was drafted into service during the Korean War.

For his service to our Nation, Mr. Navarino was awarded the National Defense Medal. While stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, he was tasked with being a Jeep driver for his Colonel. When his father succumbed to a heart attack, he was honorably discharged from the Army.

Upon returning home, Mr. Navarino was employed as a truck driver for the *New York Daily News*, the former *New York Mirror*, the *Richmond County*, and the *Hudson County News*. Later, he took the position of bus driver for Pioneer Bus Company.

Since his military days, Mr. Navarino has continued to stay active with the American Legion and his community of veterans.

A proud member of the Granito-Smith American Legion Post 1296, Mr. Navarino currently serves as Commander. He attends and coordinates Memorial and Veterans Day services. He is a staunch supporter and an active participant in committees formed through the Post.

Through Mr. Navarino's efforts, he has laid the groundwork for how his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren look back on their country and those who have fought, and are currently fighting, for the country's freedom. Mr. Navarino's hard work and dedication is noteworthy, as he works diligently to help families in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

Mr. Navarino was born and raised in New Brighton, Staten Island to Anthony and Carmella Navarino. He married Angie Perno in 1955 and relocated to Dongan Hills. They are the proud parents of three children: Anthony, Carolyn (DiMartino), and Gina (Simas); five grandchildren: Joey, Charlie, Michael (DiMartino), Kayla, and Troy (Simas); and four great-grandchildren: Aria, Nicolette, Ayden, and Aubree.



CHARLES A. NAVARINO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JESSICA SCARCELLA-SPANTON.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

TRICIA NAVARRO-CARABALLO

Tricia Navarro-Caraballo enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2005 and served her Nation until 2017.

Born in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Navarro-Caraballo moved to the United States at the age of nine and attended Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Manhattan. Ms. Navarro-Caraballo joined the Marine Corps and recounts that, as a youngster in Brooklyn, her interest to join was sparked by their uniform and their slogan, "The Few. The Proud. The Marines."

In 2008, Ms. Navarro-Caraballo was deployed to Iraq. For her service and dedication, she earned numerous awards, including the NAM/Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

The life lessons Ms. Navarro-Caraballo learned, while serving in the military, were the true meaning of teamwork. Her most memorable event while in the Marine Corps was the training that she received, which led to her deployment. She knew she was part of something bigger than herself.

Growing up in Brooklyn, she had very positive interactions with police officers in her community. For her, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers' uniform projected a sense of respect. After leaving the Marine Corps, Ms. Navarro-Caraballo decided to join one of the world's greatest police departments, the NYPD. She had lived her dream as a United States Marine, and she was now ready to become a police officer.

Officer Navarro-Caraballo is currently assigned to the 63rd Precinct in Brooklyn as an NCO/Neighborhood Coordination Officer. Her duties include bridging the gap between the police department and the community at large by providing crucial support and services to the residents.

She is a strong believer in, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it."

Ms. Navarro-Caraballo is married and the proud mom to three beautiful, bossy people: nine-year-old twin girls and a seven-year-old boy.



TRICIA NAVARRO-CARABALLO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

JOHN NONNA

John Nonna achieved the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class - E-4.

Mr. Nonna, of Pleasantville, New York, served honorably on active duty in the United States Navy and Navy Reserve from 1970 to 1975. As a Reservist, from 1970 to 1971, Mr. Nonna was assigned to the Sumner-class destroyer USS Zellars.

Mr. Nonna was called up to active duty from 1971 to 1973 and was stationed at the Brooklyn Naval Station. He then returned to the Reserve and served in Naval Intelligence out of Manhattan until 1975.

Currently, Mr. Nonna serves as the Westchester County Attorney in the administration of County Executive George Latimer, as a Trustee of Westchester Community College, and he previously served as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights Under Law and the Friends of the Rockefeller Park Preserve Board. Mr. Nonna has served as Secretary and member of the Board of Governors of the New York Athletic Club. He was the managing partner of the New York office of Squire Patton Boggs (U.S.) LLP, and he practiced at other major law firms for over 30 years. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Nonna has a distinguished record of public service as a Westchester County Legislator, and in Pleasantville, where he has been Mayor, Trustee, and Acting Village Justice. Mr. Nonna was a member of the United States Olympic Fencing Team in 1972 and again in 1980, when he earned the Congressional Gold Medal and was a medalist in the Pan American Games.

He graduated from Regis High School, Princeton University, and New York University Law School. After law school, Mr. Nonna was a law assistant to Associate Judge Dominick Gabrielli of the New York Court of Appeals. He is a mediator for the United States District Court Mediation Program. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Westchester County Bar Association, Federal Bar Council, and New York City Bar Association and has served as Co-Chair of Directors of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.



JOHN NONNA WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
**SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND
NYS SENATE MAJORITY LEADER.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

MICHAEL ORTIZ

Michael Ortiz served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Specialist.

Mr. Ortiz's life journey has been defined by his unwavering dedication to his community and country. Born in 1962 in the Dominican Republic, he had aspired to become a police officer. However, fate had other plans for him when a friend suggested he join the Army. In August 1983, he seized the opportunity to join the Army, a decision that would change his life forever.

He completed his basic training at Fort Knox in Kentucky and received specialized training at Fort Lee in Virginia. Opting for an overseas assignment, he spent two years stationed in Germany. During his service, he rose to the rank of Specialist and was responsible for supplying critical parts for tanks and helicopters.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Ortiz served at Fort Hood, Texas, for 18 months. During this time, he earned several prestigious awards, including an honorable discharge, Army Achievement Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. His military service came to an end in 1986, as the troops were being recalled from Germany.

After his years in the military, Mr. Ortiz embarked on a diverse career path, ultimately finding a home at the 92nd Street Y, where he dedicated 16 years of service (1989-2005). During his time at the Y, Mr. Ortiz became deeply involved in union activities as a member of DC17-07. He served as a delegate to the Assembly of DC17-07 and co-chaired the grievance committee, advocating for the rights of his fellow workers and ensuring their concerns were heard and addressed.

In 2005, Mr. Ortiz joined Kensico Properties, where he has remained ever since. He wears many hats in this role, including serving as a security professional, fire safety director, and an all-hands-on-deck team player.

Not only has Mr. Ortiz made an impact throughout his professional life, but he has also been deeply engaged in his community, receiving recognition from the Comptroller's Office for his contributions as a parent leader.

Mr. Ortiz's legacy is one of service, activism, and a tireless dedication to making the world a better place for those around him.



MICHAEL ORTIZ WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ROBERT JACKSON.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RALPH J. OSTERHOUDT, SR.

Ralph J. Osterhoudt, Sr. is a distinguished World War II veteran known for his lifelong dedication to his community and country.

At the age of 15, Mr. Osterhoudt joined the Ground Observer Corps, a WWII-era Civil Defense program under the United States Army Air Force. He became part of a dedicated group of local civilian volunteers entrusted to monitor the skies over the Hudson Valley, with the critical task of reporting potential enemy aircraft sightings to the Roosevelt Estate in Hyde Park, home to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, during his senior year at F.D.R. High School, he was drafted into the United States Army to serve his country in World War II. He deployed first to Scotland and later to France and Germany as part of the 575th Field Artillery Battalion.

Mr. Osterhoudt's courage and fortitude were exemplified in many instances, including through his heroic role as one of the first 30 liberators of Auschwitz. He and his unit played a pivotal role in the Battle of the Bulge; their mission included shelling Nazi bridges and fuel supplies as they endured relentless bombardment and traveled dangerous terrain.

For his bravery and heroism, Mr. Osterhoudt was awarded the French Medal of Honor, three Bronze Star Medals, and the Purple Heart.

After returning home to Staatsburg, Mr. Osterhoudt used his skills in electrical engineering, developed during his time in the Army, to start Osterhoudt Electric, providing a needed service in his community.

As an active member of the American Legion Post 1303, his commitment to his fellow veterans has remained steadfast. At the age of 97, he continues to participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day events and serves as Senior Board Member for the military charity Mended Swords. Mr. Osterhoudt advocated against the closure of Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls, championing the preservation of vital veterans' healthcare services. His efforts to amplify veterans' stories and commemorate the fallen are a testament to his enduring patriotism.

A lifelong resident of Staatsburg, Mr. Osterhoudt exemplifies the essence of service, from his heroic contributions during WWII to his lifelong commitment to his community and fellow veterans.



**RALPH J. OSTERHOUDT, SR. WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR MICHELLE HINCHEY.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

KATHERINE QUINONES

Katherine Quinones served in the New York Army National Guard and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Ms. Quinones embarked on her Army journey as a high school junior in 1984, completing Basic Combat and Advanced Individual Training; her expertise lies in Human Resource and Automated Logistics. In 1996, she joined the New York Counterdrug Task Force, serving as a drug prevention specialist and Regiment Administrator for the Cadets. When 9/11 struck, she promptly reported for duty at the New York/Canadian border for a 30-day assignment.

Over 32 years and 10 months, Ms. Quinones thrived in the New York Army National Guard, dedicating 20 years to the Counter Drug Task Force. Her commendable service garnered her accolades such as the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, among others. Post-retirement, she earned an Associate degree in Liberal Arts and mastered American Sign Language.

Ms. Quinones remains deeply involved in veteran organizations, including the Blue Star Mother's Veteran Women's Coffee House, Compeer Corps of Monroe County, and the Veteran's Outreach Center Female Veteran's Group. She also passionately leads the 209th Regiment of Cadets, guiding youth toward community service and positive living.

Her selflessness extends to Family Readiness Group volunteering, wreath-laying with Webster's Wreaths Across America, and aiding military personnel's transition to civilian life. She's an active member of the Monroe County American Legion Honor Guard, providing final honors for fallen comrades. Additionally, she co-founded a coalition supporting Latino veterans and families.

In a remarkable act of generosity, Ms. Quinones donated a kidney during the global pandemic in 2021. She's a trailblazer as the first female Commander in VFW 412 Chili Memorial Post, recently reelected for the 2023-2024 term, and serves as the VFW District 8 Junior Vice Commander.

Outside her commitments, Ms. Quinones cherishes moments with her grandkids, enjoys reading, and relishes hikes. She has been married to fellow veteran, Pedro, for 38 years, and they share five children (two currently deployed) and six grandchildren, with one more on the way.



KATHERINE QUINONES WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR SAMRA G. BROUK.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

SAMUEL RAVELO

Samuel Ravelo answered the call to serve our Nation by joining the United States Navy. He attained the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer.

Mr. Ravelo's valor shone during the Persian Gulf War, where he played an instrumental role in the liberation of Kuwait. His service in the military not only demonstrated his courage, but also solidified his dedication to safeguarding the principles of freedom and justice.

Upon the completion of his military tenure, Mr. Ravelo returned to the Bronx and enrolled at Bronx Community College, embarking on a path of academic enrichment. Subsequently, he joined the ranks of the New York City Police Department, a decision that marked the beginning of his enduring commitment to the safety and welfare of his fellow New Yorkers. With unwavering dedication, Mr. Ravelo climbed the ranks, attaining the esteemed position of Lieutenant after 26 years of exemplary service. His selflessness was starkly evident on the fateful day of September 11, 2001, when he rushed to offer aid during the tragic attacks on the World Trade Center, embodying the true spirit of a public servant.

Inspired by his own experiences and challenges, Mr. Ravelo stands as the visionary founder of a veterans' nonprofit organization. This organization serves as a vital resource to veterans and their families by offering critical assistance and much-needed information.

Mr. Ravelo was born in the Dominican Republic into a working-class family. His father's small business and his mother's role as a pharmacist instilled in him a strong work ethic and a drive to overcome challenges. Faced with economic and political uncertainties in their homeland, Mr. Ravelo's mother made the courageous decision to relocate their family to the United States, driven by the aspiration to provide her children with greater opportunities.

A devoted father, Mr. Ravelo raised his two sons, Sammy Jr. and Kevin, in the close-knit Morris Park neighborhood of the Bronx. His influence and dedication continue to shape not only his family, but also the broader community. His journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of resilience, service, and a boundless dedication to the betterment of others.



**SAMUEL RAVELO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR LUIS R. SEPÚLVEDA.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RICHARD REDMOND

Richard Redmond enlisted in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Major.

He courageously served his Nation for over 20 years, deploying to combat on several occasions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He served in all duty positions, including as Rifleman in an Infantry Squad to Operations Officer and Chief of Staff of an Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Early in his career, while stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, he was selected as the 18th Airborne Corps and 82nd Airborne Division Soldier of the Year. His dedication to leadership continued as he graduated with honors and leadership recognition at all major professional development schools he attended.

During his first combat tour, Mr. Redmond heroically earned the Purple Heart after being wounded on April 28, 2008. While on patrol in Afghanistan, his vehicle was hit and completely disabled by a double-stack anti-tank mine. Immediately following, he moved to another vehicle and radioed in a close air support request while under attack. Despite having a concussion and spinal injury, Mr. Redmond continued to exercise command and control. He led his soldiers as they defended against a three-pronged attack and ultimately repelled the enemy's efforts to overrun their position. Mr. Redmond's efforts led to a successful mission.

For his valor and service, Mr. Redmond earned numerous recognitions, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Army Parachutists Badge, and the Army Air Assault Badge.

Following his retirement from the Army, Mr. Redmond made it a priority to help veterans in his community. As the Chief Operating Officer of Mohawk Valley Garden, Mr. Redmond developed the Utica Comets Hometown Hero initiative, which honors and recognizes an area veteran at every hockey game. He also spearheads the Utica Comets and the Adirondack Bank Center at Utica Memorial Auditorium's annual Veterans Day ceremony that honors and remembers the local veteran community, including all Gold Star families and Purple Heart recipients.

Mr. Redmond, and his wife, Amy, are passionate and actively involved with the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 490 and the Central New York Veterans Outreach Center in Utica. They are residents of Utica and the proud parents of two daughters, Kaela and Ciana. They are expecting their first grandchild in November 2023.



RICHARD REDMOND WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JOSEPH A. GRIFFO.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

YASHIRA RODRIGUEZ

Yashira Rodriguez is an eight-year veteran of the United States Army Reserve. She embodies a profound dedication to service, driven by her upbringing in a military household, where her mother's enduring commitment served as a guiding light.

Throughout her tenure in the Reserve, Ms. Rodriguez balanced her military responsibilities with her pursuit of higher education, ultimately earning both bachelor's and master's degrees. After nearly a decade in the healthcare industry, she embarked on a career transition into the civic and non-profit sector. Today, her focus is on assisting transitioning military service members as they relocate to the Greater Rochester/Finger Lakes region. A significant portion of her time is devoted to connecting with soldiers stationed at Fort Drum and other service members across the Nation, all eager to call Upstate New York their new home.

Her passion lies in advocating for and raising awareness for the remarkable talents that veterans possess to regional employers. Ms. Rodriguez treasures her in-person recruitment efforts at military installations, where she establishes meaningful connections with those embarking on civilian life while nurturing strong relationships with installation staff and local community partners. Her mission is centered around ensuring successful transitions into civilian careers and providing veterans with a dependable point of contact to navigate life post-service.

Ms. Rodriguez' commitment extends beyond her professional role; she serves on the Board of Directors at the Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester, New York and actively participates in the Help Base Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board's Veterans Committees. Her involvement in local organizations with shared missions has been pivotal in understanding the resources, events, and services available to our veteran community members.

Recently, Ms. Rodriguez was honored to be appointed to The Mission Continues Women Veterans Leadership Program, standing alongside 74 female veterans from diverse service branches and from 21 states across the Nation. Her selection into Cohort 6 is an incredible honor and she looks forward to joining the Rochester - TMC Platoon in community service projects.



**YASHIRA RODRIGUEZ WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JEREMY A. COONEY.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

FIRST SERGEANT JOSEPH RONDA

Joseph Ronda is a First Sergeant in the New York Guard. He also served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Mr. Ronda enlisted in the Reserve in 1998. Upon completion of his training, he was assigned to the 6th Communications Battalion, and in 2003, he was deployed to Kuwait for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His base was under fire and struck by Iraqi missiles, which, years later, led him to experience PTSD. In 2004, he finished his time in the Reserve and went back to normal life.

In 2010, First Sergeant Ronda decided to enlist in the New York Guard, which augments the Army and Air National Guard and consists of civilians and prior service veterans. As a volunteer State Guardsman, he served as an instructor and trained hundreds of civilians beginning in 2013. During Hurricane Irene, he served five days as the NCOIC of 40 National Guardsmen and State Guardsmen.

First Sergeant Ronda is a member of the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, and the Star Of The Sea Cadet Corps. A staunch advocate, he has performed over 700 hours of volunteer service, teaching both youth and adults about the love of God, country, patriotism, Americanism and professionalism. He works on behalf of his fellow service members and is the Master of Ceremony for the Pelham Parkway Peace Plaza Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

For his service and dedication to our Nation, First Sergeant Ronda has earned numerous awards and recognitions, including the Navy Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization M device, NYS Long and Faithful Service Medal with State shield, NYS Enduring Freedom Ribbon, NYS Iraqi Freedom Ribbon, NYS Medal for Merit, NYS Conspicuous Service Star, NYS Recruiting Medal, NYG Commanders Citation with 3 State shields, NYG Achievement Medal, NYG Good Conduct Medal with 2 State shields, NYG Service Ribbon, NYG First Provisional Regiment Ribbon, SGAUS Membership Medal, and NYG Basic Communication Badge.

Raised in the Bronx, New York, First Sergeant Ronda is always looking for ways to help others.



FIRST SERGEANT JOSEPH RONDA WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR NATHALIA FERNANDEZ.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

FRANK RUSSO

Frank Russo served in the United States Army and achieved the rank of Specialist 4.

Mr. Russo, a native of Italy, grew up in Brooklyn and now resides on Staten Island. His life was shaped by his time in the military and his service to our Nation, which has been the catalyst for a lifelong path of paying it forward.

A Vietnam veteran, Mr. Russo landed at Bien Hoa Air Base in South Vietnam on his twentieth birthday. He escorted convoys and protected the perimeter of multiple firebases. By the grace of God and all the souls lost there, he survived many close calls and returned home.

For his valor, bravery and service to our Nation, Mr. Russo was awarded numerous medals and commendations, including the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal (3 stars), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Vietnam Service Medal, New York Medal of Merit, and New York Conspicuous Service Medal.

An active member of multiple veterans' organizations, Mr. Russo is the Communication Officer at VFW Post 7172. He is Chairman of the Service Committee, First Vice Commander and Communication Officer, and Webmaster of AMVETS Post 917.

He has coordinated over 60 visits to Walter Reed Medical Center, visiting and distributing comfort items to injured veterans. In 2019, Mr. Russo was awarded the National AMVET of the Year Silver Helmet Award.

He is a staunch advocate of veterans and coordinates the annual Staten Island Welcomes Our Heroes event, where selected injured veterans from Walter Reed Medical Center are escorted by police and bikers from the Center all the way to Staten Island.

Mr. Russo has been a member of VVA Chapter 421 since 2010. He is a member of the Honor Guard, Color Guard and current Secretary and Webmaster.

Mr. Russo has a degree in computer science, and in 1979, he married his soulmate, Maria.

To honor those lost in Vietnam, Mr. Russo vowed to find a way to pay his survival debt, devoting himself to thanking, helping, and keeping veterans close to his heart. He honors the more than 58,000 lost souls that paved his safe return home. Staten Island is forever grateful for his life of service.



**FRANK RUSSO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ANDREW J. LANZA.**

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

ROBERT R. SPIELER

Robert R. Spieler served in the United States Army Chemical Corps as a Private.

Mr. Spieler was born on September 30, 1942 in Fort Sill, Oklahoma during World War II. He was the first and only child born to Private Alex Spieler and his wife, Irene. As the United States fought back against the Nazis' final onslaught at the great Battle of the Bulge, Private Alex Spieler, a Munitions Specialist, was deployed to the frontlines. Robert was just three years old when his father made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country.

In 1960, our Nation was at war in Vietnam. Mr. Spieler turned 18 and began his college studies in Chemistry, having received a scholarship to Hofstra University. To honor his father's legacy, he chose to decline his survivorship exemption and join the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). Upon his graduation in 1964, Mr. Spieler trained at Fort Dix, joined the Edgewood Arsenal, and served his country with distinction in the Chemical Corps until 1966.

Upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Spieler found lifelong fulfillment in service to his community. After a long career as a math teacher in the New York City public school system, Mr. Spieler continues to find ways to solve problems and engage people of all ages in learning new things.

Mr. Spieler founded the first chess club at the Brooklyn Public Library, which has been successful for over 10 years. Four years ago, he started Brooklyn's official Pickleball Association and successfully lobbied for the Borough's only outdoor courts at Marine Park.

At 80 years young, Mr. Spieler still trains daily, which led him to organize the outdoor gym club at Joffe Park, where he inspires a new generation and leads the advocacy for improvements to better serve the community.

Mr. Spieler is a proud family man. He and his wife, Susan, have been married for 57 years and have two sons, Andrew and Howard, and eight beautiful grandchildren.



ROBERT R. SPIELER WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR SIMCHA FELDER.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

ANNIE L. SUGGS

Annie L. Suggs enlisted as Private E1 into the U.S. Army Reserve, 305th Engineer Detachment at Fort Totten, New York on June 7, 1979. Ms. Suggs attended Basic Combat Training at Company A, USA Reception Station at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Advanced Individual Training at Headquarters 2nd Battalion Troop Brigade, Fort Benjamin in Harrison, Indiana.

Her assignments included the 99th Signal Battalion, Company C in Brooklyn, New York; 408th AG Battalion Det. 1 in Fort Totten, New York; and 943rd Replacement Company in Fort Totten, New York. Ms. Suggs was deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina for Operation Joint Endeavor, 1-309th 78th Division; Training Support Battalion at Fort Dix, New Jersey, mobilized for Enduring Freedom; and the 3rd Battalion, 391st Regiment, 7th Brigade, 98th Division at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Her career with the Army highlights a commitment of 27 years of service to our Nation. She retired on August 14, 2007.

She earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Army Service Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal (3OLC), Army Commendation Medal (4OLC), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (5OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (2), Army Achievement Medal: Meritorious Duty as Telecommunications Supervisor, Army Commendation Medal: Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 1993, NATO Medal: Service in the former Yugoslavia, Army Achievement Medal: Exceptional Achievement as the Training NCO for the CAAP Preparation Inspection, Army Operation Enduring Freedom MAT SGM, Army Certificate of Appointment Command Sergeant Major, and Meritorious Service Medal in 2004 and 2007.

Ms. Suggs is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeant Majors Academy. She received her Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Nyack College and a Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary. She is a Doctor of Ministry candidate at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

A native of Farmville, North Carolina, Ms. Suggs has resided in New York for over 50 years.



ANNIE L. SUGGS WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ZELLMOR Y. MYRIE.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

ANDREW SWARTHOUT

Andrew Swarthout served in the United States Army with the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War. He achieved the rank of Specialist 4.

Mr. Swarthout served as a Combat Medic from 1965 to 1966, working with helicopter crews in major battles to rescue wounded soldiers and administer medical aid. He was at the Battle of Ia Drang, later made famous in the bestselling book *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young: Ia Drang – The Battle That Changed the War in Vietnam* and a subsequent major motion picture.

Mr. Swarthout is a highly-decorated veteran who is recognized for his service and bravery. He has earned numerous medals and commendations, including two recently awarded Bronze Star Medals (BSM), Vietnam Award of Gallantry, Combat Medical Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Service Medal, and New York State Conspicuous Service Cross.

Following his combat service in Vietnam, Mr. Swarthout returned home to Yates County, where he has long-played an integral role in serving his fellow veterans, local veterans' organizations, and his community at large.

A staunch advocate on behalf of veterans, his community service has included being a longstanding member and officer of the Johnson-Costello American Legion Post 355 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 745, and Captain of the American Legion/VFW Honor Guard, serving as Chairman. He also organized the Penn Yan Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Day ceremonies. He has served as the Grand Marshal and Master of Ceremonies for numerous local veterans observances, assisted in the Keuka College Veterans Day Ceremony, and organized hundreds of military funerals.

Mr. Swarthout received the "Legionnaire of the Year Award" from the New York State American Legion in 2018 and was also presented with a "Lifetime Membership Award" for his contributions to the Post and the needs of area veterans.

A resident of Yates County, Mr. Swarthout has devoted a lifetime of sacrifice and service to our Nation, to the State of New York, and to his community. He has always been guided by an abiding and deep-rooted commitment to the well-being of his fellow veterans and their families.



ANDREW SWARTHOUT WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR THOMAS F. O'MARA.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

TRISTIE L. TAPPIN

Tristie L. Tappin is a disabled veteran who proudly served in the United States Army Reserve and Maryland Army National Guard from 1994 to 2002. She served as both an Administrative Specialist and a Signal Support Systems Specialist.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Ms. Tappin is a first-generation Caribbean American of Jamaican and Guyanese descent. Enlisting in the Reserve during her senior year at Tilden High School, she moved to Maryland for her undergraduate education in Psychology at Maryland's oldest Historically Black College and University, Bowie State University, where she graduated in 1999. She earned a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from Argosy University in Arlington, Virginia in 2007.

Ms. Tappin began her career as a 911 Dispatcher with the Montgomery County Police Department in Maryland. In 2010, she began working with the Baltimore County Crisis Response, in conjunction with the Baltimore County Police as a Mobile Crisis Clinician. She has worked as a psychotherapist, clinical administrator, and psychiatric emergency crisis evaluator in hospital emergency rooms, as well as in Corrections. In 2011, Ms. Tappin made the decision to move back to New York to give back to the City that gave so much to her foundational years.

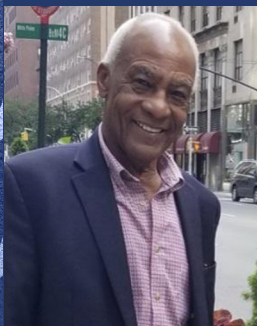
Most recently, Ms. Tappin served as a Clinical Instructor with a local non-profit agency in New York City. In this capacity, she trained the officers of the New York City Police Department in crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, since 2017, Ms. Tappin has been a Military and Family Life Counselor. She uses her training as a Licensed Professional Counselor in New Jersey to assist service members who are either preparing for or returning from deployment.

With over 15 years of experience in the field of mental health, she currently is a Crisis Behavioral Health Clinician for Willow Health, a start-up virtual-care crisis clinic, and she is also in private practice as a psychotherapist. Having lived a life of service, Ms. Tappin continues to give back to the community through various civic organizations. She is a proud member of Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Inc. State of New York (Emerald Chapter No. 81), The Imperial Court, and several others.



TRISTIE L. TAPPIN WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR KEVIN S. PARKER.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

JOSEPH A. THOMPSON

Joseph A. Thompson served in the United States Air Force and achieved the rank of Radar Operator.

Mr. Thompson was born in Staunton, Virginia and moved to the Bronx with his parents and three siblings at the age of five. He graduated from Morris High School in 1957 and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1958, serving as a Radar Operator until he was honorably discharged in 1961.

In 1962, Mr. Thompson decided to join the New York City Police Department and was appointed the following year to the Vice Squad. After his promotion to Detective in 1967, Mr. Thompson worked in numerous squads throughout the City.

A steadfast maverick, Mr. Thompson visited Staunton in the mid-1960s and integrated a local segregated diner. Holding on to what he believed was right, he convinced fellow African Americans to break a social taboo by bowling at the for-Whites-only bowling alley.

In 1977, Mr. Thompson became the first full-time African American life insurance agent at New York Northwestern Mutual. In 2008, he was an elected delegate for Barack Obama's candidacy for President, signing the primary voting document at the Democratic National Convention in Colorado.

Mr. Thompson began his community service work in 1987, starting as a manager for the Pelham Parkway Little League (PPLL); he became its Vice President in 1989, a position he still holds today. In 1999, he co-founded the Allerton/Pelham Parkway Community Mobile Patrol and was appointed to Community Board 11 in 1997. In 2001, he was elected Second Vice Chair.

An asset to his community, Mr. Thompson diligently served as President of the 49th Precinct Community Council and Executive Director of the White Plains Road Business Improvement District. He was a facilitator for the 49th Precinct Clergy Council, and he was a member of the Einstein College Institutional Review Board and the Einstein-Montefiore Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee. He has served as a member of the Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation's Board of Directors and chaired the Board of Directors for the Bronx Rebels Youth Football League.

Mr. Thompson has resided in The Bronx's Community Board 11 for over 47 years. He married his wife, Gladys Osorio, in 1969, and they are the proud parents of two children and two grandchildren.



JOSEPH A. THOMPSON WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR GUSTAVO RIVERA.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

MICHAEL LOUIS VULCANO

Michael Louis Vulcano served in the United States Marines and achieved the rank of Corporal.

Mr. Vulcano is a native New Yorker and the son of Italian immigrant parents from Calabria, Italy, who settled in Brooklyn with him and his eight siblings.

A proud family man, he is a son, brother, father, grandfather, and a great-grandfather. A member of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Vulcano is also a proud World War II veteran.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Vulcano answered his Nation's call at the age of 19. From Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, as a member of the 2nd Marine Battalion Company B, he boarded a ship that would take him and his fellow soldiers to islands he had never heard of in the Pacific.

He fought in two of the fiercest battles of WWII, the Battle of Okinawa and the Battle of Tarawa Island. The number of souls lost in these two battles is staggering. Mr. Vulcano achieved the rank of Corporal before being honorably discharged; he returned to his home in Brooklyn to rejoin his parents and eight siblings.

He never talks about the War, nor of his journey on ships that were tossed and turned in tumultuous storms at sea. Recently, his usual happy-go-lucky attitude turned somber, saying that often he awakes in the middle of the night to memories of the horror of war and the faces of friends that he lost. He goes back to sleep hoping that those thoughts and the sadness they bring will disappear. And when they do, they are replaced by the happiness that his family gives him.

Mr. Vulcano was happily married to his wife, Phyllis Russo, for 64 years. They had two daughters, Denise and Michele. He is the proud grandfather of Ashley and great-grandfather of Kalani and Keanu. The family grew up in Bayside, Queens in their three-family home, surrounded by extended family.

On April 23, 2023, Mr. Vulcano hit a major milestone when he turned 100 years old and achieved centenarian status. Today, he lives in Flushing, Queens with his daughter, Denise.



MICHAEL LOUIS VULCANO WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR JOHN C. LIU.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RUTH WELCH

Ruth Welch served in the United States Navy and earned the rank of Teleman-Petty Officer 2 (TE2).

A World War II veteran, Ms. Welch heard the call of duty to serve her Nation and bravely enlisted in the Navy in 1942, right after the United States entered the war. She served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES).

She attended radio school in Wisconsin and was then stationed at the United States Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans, Louisiana. While serving her country, Ms. Welch has the distinction of being the first of five women on the base, where they trained aircraft pilots on the use of radios. Ms. Welch was discharged from the Navy in 1945.

After being discharged from the Navy, Ms. Welch joined the American Legion, where she has proudly served for over 77 years. She continues to attend the monthly meeting at the Smith-Wever Post 651 located in Sayville, New York.

Ms. Welch was born in Queens in 1922 and moved with her family to Baldwin in Nassau County some five years later. She is currently a resident of Sayville, New York. She graduated from Baldwin High School in 1940 and shortly after began work at an insurance company.

A pillar of her community, Ms. Welch is admired and respected by her family, friends, and peers.



RUTH WELCH WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR ALEXIS WEIK.

2023



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

KENNETH W. WINKLER

Kenneth W. Winkler served in the United States Air Force and the United States Army. He retired as a CWT Master Aviator Instructor/Examiner.

Mr. Winkler proudly served in the military for 22 years. From 1962 to 1966, he served with the Air Force in Vietnam. In 1969, he joined the Army, receiving his wings and warrant officer bars, and advanced flight training on Huey helicopters.

Between 1970 and 1975, Mr. Winkler served in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Germany before returning to the United States and training as an Instrument Examiner and Warrant Officer. From 1986 to 1990, he served on numerous missions in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Philippines, and Zaire.

On February 28, 1971, Mr. Winkler earned the prestigious Distinguished Flying Cross for "heroism while participating in aerial flight," and for "voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty" as a Pilot and Gunner of an AH-1G armed helicopter supporting a battalion of ARV troops under siege in Laos. Mr. Winkler flew to the friendly position under challenging conditions and forced the enemy to retreat. Ultimately continuing his attack under intense anti-aircraft fire, Mr. Winkler countered with suppressive fire and destroyed the enemy emplacements.

Mr. Winkler retired as CW4 Master Aviator Instructor/Examiner in 1985. He continued flying for government agencies in Central America, Africa, the Philippines, and the West Indies until 1990. During his career, Mr. Winkler amassed more than 10,000 flight hours as a pilot, instrument examiner, and flight instructor in both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

Mr. Winkler has earned numerous awards and commendations, including four Bronze Stars; 34 Air Medals; three Meritorious Service Medals; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device; Army Commendation Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and Conspicuous Service Star; and a Humanitarian Service Medal for assisting during an earthquake in Naples, Italy in 1980.

An accomplished three-sport athlete, Mr. Winkler received an athletic scholarship to Hobart College in 1957. He was inducted into the Victor Central Schools Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004. Mr. Winkler has been an active member of American Legion-James Cooke Post 931 for over 20 years.

He met his wife, Olga, while serving in Germany. In 1975, they wed at First United Methodist Church in Canandaigua and are the proud parents of three children: Lea, Caroline, and Kurt.



**KENNETH W. WINKLER WAS SELECTED AS A
2023 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR PAMELA A. HELMING.**

2023

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Patrick Abrams
Robert Addison
Michael Adrian
Alex Aesch, Jr.
George Alexander, Jr.
Charles H. Alexander, Jr.
William B. Allendorph
Frank X. Allkofer
Sullivan Alois
Jerry Alperstein
Ed Altenau
Ismile Althaibani
Abraham Althaibani
Hector F. Alvarado
Ambrose Anderson
Arma E. Andon
Joseph G. Angelino
Leroy Richard Archible
Robert W. Armenio
Raymond Arroyo
W. Gerard Asher
Allan P. Atwell
Ed Babor
Roman Baca
Miguel Bach
George V. Baker
Emil Baker
Reverend Dr. Tony Baker, Sr.
Jai Bams
Margaret Bandy
Fred Baptiste
Herbert Barret
John F. Barry

John Barwinczok
Ronald Bassham
Wayne Baumgartner
William A. Baxter
Glyger G. Beach
William Beatty
Ray Beebe
Barbara Beebe
Sergeant Gary Beikirch
David Bellavia
Joe Bello
Analiza Benjamin
James Robert Benzinger
Donald Bernstein
Charles E. Bilbrey
James Black
Lee Blackmon
LaTanga Blair
James Edward Blakely
Joseph D. Blanck
Walter Blum
Arcangelo Bollella
Henry Bolus
Edward Borowski
John Bourges
Deborah Bourne-Alley
W. Michael Bowen
Ralph Elliot Bowen
Steven W. Bowman
Joseph H. Brady
John J. Brady
Daniel J. Brandi
Daniel Breier



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Judge Michael J. Brennan

Michael G. Breslin

Douglas Brewster

Walter E. Bridges

George R. Broadhead

Dr. Cleopatra Brown

Joe Robert Browne

William Brustman

Eugene Bryant

Tom Buono

Mario Buonpane

Eugene Burch

Sylinthia Burges

Michael Burke

John Patrick Burke

Rosetta Y. Burke

Harold Burke, Jr.

Willie Burks

Daniel J. Bush

Thomas J. Butler, Jr.

Edward L. Butts, Jr.

James Byler

William J. Byrne

Alberto Caiella

Ralph Calabrese

Anthony Caminiti

Julixa Campusano

Irving Cantor

William Capodanno

Phil R. Capraro

Ruby Carlisle-Thomas

Peter Carlo

Clayton Carpenter

Alyssa Carrion

Tom Carty

Eric Carver

Anthony Casamento

Frank Casazza

Mary E. Cavanagh

Joe J. Ceurter

Ralph L. Chinelly

Bernard Boowah Chong

Michael J. Christiano

David J. Clark

Bob Clark

Eugene Clark

Sidney T. Clark

Roberto Clotter

Michael P. Cody, Jr.

Joseph A. Cognitore

Sydney Cole

Dr. Richard Collins

Peter Colombo

Frank Colon, Jr.

John Compitello

Joseph Conace

Douglas Condit Jr.

John Condon

Sal Conforto

Leonard B. Connelly

Martin C. Connor Jr.

Rick Connors

John Emmett Connors

Arthur P. Coon

Claude S. Copeland, Jr.

John Cortese



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Anthony J. Costanzo
Marc Coviello
Warren Craig
Thomas Cray
Phyllis Mills Creamer
Arthur M. Cromarty
Harold G. Cronin
Roswell L. Crozier, Jr.
Dr. Barry R. Culhane
Patrick J. Cunningham
Francis S. Currey
Peter Cuthbert
Christopher Czarnecki
Jordan Czerniawski
John Czuhanich
Sebastian D'Agostino
Silviu Dan Sr.
Sam Danial
Robert Danke
Anthony J. D'Arpino
Clarence Dart
John S. Davanzo
Colonel Stephanie E. Dawson
Donald Day
Prisco De Angelis
Benjamin A. DeFonce
George S. Delianites
Edward T. Dempsey
Stephen Dennis
Patrick W. Devine
Michael DeVito, Jr.
Alice Psirakis Diacosavvas
John Diana

Clifton Stanley Diaz
Eugene DiGiacomo
John T. Digilio
Christopher Dill
Frank J. DiNuzzo, Jr.
Carmine DiPasquale
Teddy Ditchek
Glenn Dodge
Robert Frank Dolcimascolo
Michael A. Donaldson
Gerald Donnellan
Ryan Donnelly
Rocco V. D'Onofrio
Jerry D'Onofrio, Sr.
John C. Donovan
John Drago
Walter George Drago
William DuBose
Elana Duffy
Joseph Dugan
John Dulisse
Howard Dunn
James H. Dunn
Randy Dupree
James Durkin
Harold Dworetzky
Dr. Max Eagelfeld
Sharon Earley-Davis
Nelson Eddy
George W. Egan
Geno Peter Egiziaco, Sr.
Steven W. Ellis
Armen Enkababian



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Harold James Enstice	Lawrence Fisher
Nicholas Erickson	Gary L. Flaherty
Ralph Esposito	Kenneth B. Fleiger
Michael J. Esposito, Jr.	Eddie Fletcher
Buddy Espstein	Osceola Louis Fletcher
Al Etkin	Joseph S. Forte
Charles A. Eustis	John Foy
Richard Evers	Joseph T. Fraccola
John Every	William Arthur Francis
Barbara J. Exum	Muriel O. Franzier
Sal Famularo	John Fratangelo
Joseph R. Farina	Jeffrey W. French
Derek J. Farley	Kathie Freston
Ben Farnan	Anthony L. Frusciante, Sr.
Paul Albert Feddern	Father Moritz Fuchs
Fedele Family	Joan Furey
Thomas Feeley	Anthony J. Gabriel, Jr.
Dominick Feeney	Joshua Gaccione
Curtis Feggins	Diana B. Gaetano
Edwin Feliciano, Jr.	Armando Galella
Gayelle Marie Felix	Joseph Gallant Jr.
Blossom Ferguson	Tessie Shirley Pierce Garber
Aphiel Fernandez	Ricardo Garcia
Luz M. Fernandez-Aviles	William Garnett, Jr.
Anthony M. Ferrarese	Melvin Garrett
Eric Fetterman	Edwin L. Garris
Donald Fida	Luke Gasparre
Edward Field	Catalina Gavia
Russel C. Fielding	Merlin German
Dominic Filippone	Joseph Germano
Dennis Fink	Margaret Gill
Robert A. Fire	James Gillen
Floyd Fisher	Richard T. Gillespie



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Vito Giobbie
P. Earle Gleason
Peter J. Glennon
J. Leo Glynn
George Godfrey
Peter K. Goebel
Albert Goldberg
Roberta Goldenberg
Howard Goldin
Peter Gong
Roxana Gonzalez-Jimenez
Arthur Grabiner
Tony Graziano
Corporal Abner Greenberg
Lawrence Gregory
J. Donald Griffin
Patrick Gualtieri
Henry Gurney
Russell A. Guthrie
Jordan Christian Haerter
James A. Haggerty
John L. Halford, Sr.
Brian J. Hall
Bob Harder
Jack W. Harrington
Marlene Dietrich Heath
Rheyser Henry
John Hensel
Thomas J. Heron II
Wallace C. Higgins
Thomas F. Higgins
John Higgins
Sharon Hightower

Samuel Hill, Jr.
Eva Hinds
Thomas Michael Hoare
Walter Hobbs
Andrea H. Hodge
Frank Hollister
Peter Holowecki
Daniel J. Honsinger
Dr. Olivia J. Hooker
David R. Hooks, Jr.
Tom Horn
Vincent Horrigan
Katherine Horton
Ihor John Hoshowsky
John Edward Howlett
Jukay Hsu
Walter Hughes
William Hughes
Indiana Hunt
Luis F. Hurtado
Henderson Leroy Hutchinson
Renee Imperato
Joe J. Ingino
James Irwin
Daniel Izzo
Sandra Jablonski
Andrew P. Jackson
Shirley M. Jackson
Duane Jackson
Harry Janson, Sr.
Marvin R. Jeffcoat
Charlie Johnson
Charles A. Johnson



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Goerge A. Jones
Ellsworth Jones
Neil K. Jordan
Peter Ethrain Joseph
Jason A. Kaatz
William K. Kastner
Anthony Kavouras
Donald Keeney
Richard R. Keiser
James M. Kennedy
J. Arthur Kieffer
Lieutenant Benjamin Ralph Kimlau
Terence L. Kindlon
Tyrone King
Stephen M. Kinne, MD
Edward S. Kirkland
Walter Kittle
Keith Koster
Harry Kreter
Jaroslaw Kril
Ralph Kring
Peter Kurpeawski
Francis La Duc
Sabrina Lacy
Mary P. LaManna
Mike LaNassa
Joseph Landi
William J. Larkin
Joseph A. LaRocco
Robert Laskaris
Elder Stacey S. Latimer
Megan Leavey & Rex
Omar Lebron

Nancy Leftenant-Colon
Chad Lennon
Peter S. Lennon
Pete Leon
Ryan Lepore
John J. Levulis
Michael Lewandowski
Leslie Ellis Lewis
James Licardi
Lewis Licht
Donald Linborg
Sean Lindstrom
Corine Lombardo
John B. Long
Ramon Augusto Lopez
Sergeant Luis Lorenzo
Tracy J. LoTemple
Joseph Lowe
Israel Lugo-Jorge
Michael C. Lutz
Donald Maciver
Arthur Maggy
William T. Mahan
Martin G. Mahar
Jim Mahoney
Serphin R. Maltese
Robert Mandel
Dr. Donald Mandel
Walter Mankoff
Ismael M. Manolias
Hariton Marachilian
Robert Marcor
Max Marcus



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Tom Marinello
John J. Maroon
Tony Marsella
Donald Marshall
Dave Marshall
Nancy Marte
Luis Martinez
John Martinko
Job Mashariki
Lance Edward Massey
Lewis W. Matthews, Sr.
Charles A. Maushardt
Michael L. Mayne
Silvio Mazzella
Nicholas L. Mazzola
Colleen McCarthy
Frank McClement
Wendy Charece McClinton
John J. McCormick
William McDonald
Terry McGuire
Robert Joseph McGuirl, Jr.
John McHugh, Sr.
Willie McLaughlin, Jr.
Robert McLean
Francis McLean
Daniel McMahon
Jeff McMillan
Louvenia McMillan
Thomas A. McMillen
June Brown McNiven
Eugene McSherry
Ray Melens

Jonathan De Sola Mendes
David J. Menegon
Charles W. Merriam
James W. Merritte
Dina M. Michael
Glennie Millard
Patrick W. Miller
Morris Miller
Louis Miller
Frederick H. Miller, Ph.D.
Lester Modelowitz
Rafael Molina
Joseph Mondello
Matthew Mondoux
Karl W. Monson
Dabney N. Montgomery
Charles J. Moore
Ken Moore
Rodney K. Moore
Paul Morales
Bob Moran
Frank Morea
Maureen F. Morgan
Kevin Moriarty
Thomas J. Morley, Jr.
Robert Morrill
Roosevelt Morring
John L. Mosher
Alan Moskin
Ralph A. Mottola
Bill Moye
Jim Mullarkey
Francisco Muniz II



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Charles Murphy
Kenneth Murphy
Bob Murphy
Lester R. Muse Jr.
Lt. Col. Joseph T. Nader
Nardolillo Brothers
Frank S. Naro
Paul Narson
Kamal Nasser
William Nazario
Stephen Neftleberg
James B. Neider
Bill Nelson
Anthony C. Nesci, Sr.
Larry Neumann
Frank Nicolazzo
Stephen Nicolino
Freddie R. Nielsen
Pedro Nieves
Louis S. Nigrello
W. Robert Nolan
Kevin F. Nolan
Robert Noonan
Deborah M. Norman
Zulma L. Novoa
John P. Nowhitney
Laquasia Nunez
Kenneth Nurse
Milton Nussdorf
Louis Levi Oakes
Mark P. O'Brien
John O'Connor
Dennis O'Doherty, Sr.

Kevin O'Hare
Michael O'Kane
Steven Oliver
Michael H. Ollis
Richard A. Olsen
Robert E. O'Malley
Alirio Orduna
Benjamin Osborn
Rosa Daysha Otero-Walsh
Stephen Owen
Brian R. Page
Dr. Elliot S. Palais
Adolph Panetta
Joseph A. Panzardi, Sr.
Calvin Parker
Renny Parker
Eugene Parrotta
Lawrence C. Parry
George E. Parsons
Michael Pascal
Carmen Pascarella, Jr.
Albert Paviglianti
William H. Payne
Arthur Pearlman
Ann Marie Pearson
Richard Pecci
Richard Pedro
Corey Pegues
George Penney
Betty Perkins-Carpenter, Ph.D.
John J. Perrone
Jacquemae Perrotta
Robert Persichitti



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Frank C. Pesesky
Reginald Peterson
Robert Piazza
Ronald J. Pilozzi
Vito Pinto
Alfonso Piscitelli
Gerard Placide
Michael Plummer
Joseph G. Pollicino
Dre Popow
Ruben R. Pratts
Ralph Presciutti
James E. Prevete
Audet Price
Ruby Dawn Price
Ermondo Puccio
Frank J. Pullano
Claude Quick, Jr.
Katherine Ragazzino
Danylo Rakowsky
Darrell Randolph
Concepcion Ranocchia
Debbera M. Ransom
Robert Rapone
Samuel L. Reddic
Kristyn Briez Reed
James John Regan
Veronica D. Reid
Carol Reneau, Ed.D.
Stanlee Richards
Carlton Richardson
Ben Richardson
Luther L. Richardson

Paul Rieckhoff
John Ringlehan
Robert Tom Riordan
Keith Rivera
Gaston Roberge
Katherine Robinson
William Robinson
Terrence L. Roche
Adam Roche
Jorge M. Rodriguez
George Rodriguez
Joselyn Iris Rodriguez
Lecia A. Rodriques-Whyte
Dave Rogers
Karl R. Rohde
Marlene L. Roll
Sigilfredo Roman
Francis H. Romanitch
Frank Romeo
Albert Warner Rood
Jestine Roper
Jorge L. Rosario
Henry Rosenzweig, Sr.
Edward F. Rossley
David L. Roustum
Paul Russo
Joseph Ruszala
Kevin M. Ryan
Matthew George
Francis Ryan
Eddie Ryan
Maria Del Pilar Ryan, Ph.D.
Stanley Rychlicki



VETERANS

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RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Anthony Salimbene
Raymond A. Salvie
John B. Sampson
Dawn Samuel
Janet Santeramo
Anthony Santoro
Vincent James Scali
Thomas Scardino
Patsy J. Scarpato
Chester A. Scerra
Gary Schacher
Philip Schatzle
Richard R. Scheiner
Charles Scherz
Wendell H. Schillinger
Tom Schreck
Joel Schumacher
Dominic Sciallo
Richard Albert Scott
Costantino Scutari
Amando Seccurra
Arthur Seidman
Thomas G. Seifert
Ricky L. Semple
Timothy Giles Serwinowski
Thomas F. Sharpe
Clarence Sheley
Stanley Sherman
Alice R. Simpson
Jason B. Skinner
Joseph M. Skinner, Sr.
Scott Smiley
Cedric V. Smith

John D. Smith
Eugene G. Smith
Richard Smith
Phillip C. Smith
Dr. Tom Smith
Stanley L. Smith
John N. Sollazzo
Anthony J. Specchio
Ed Springer
Robert Squires
Darryl St. George
John St. Lawrence
Carol St. Pierre
Sam Stahlman
Dennis Staley
Stan F. Stanley
Roma Stern
John Stiegler
Paul Stobnicke, M.D.
Edward Stone
Laura Stradley
William O. Stratis
Dennis Michael Sullivan
George R. Sullivan
Mike Sulsona
Bruce R. Sutherland
Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey
Nathan Szpilzinger
Carrie E. Taft
Robert Taitt
Robert Tarpinian
Kenneth Taylor
Sidney Tendler



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Joseph Theinert
Don Thomas
Kinda Thomas
Travis Thomas
Bernard L. Thompson
Warren A. Thompson
Robert Thybulle
Richard S. Tibbetts
John Patrick Tipping
Ronald Tocci
Michael Tokarz
Sharon Toney-Finch
Pastor Toro, Jr.
Jeremy K. Torrisi
Frank Tracz
Martin Treat
Roy Tschudy
Carmen S. Turchiarelli
Randy Twine
Nicholas Valenti
Dr. W. Baron Van Slyke
Art Van Tyne
Alyssa Danniele Vasquez
Kevin P. Vaughan
Daniel Vavas
Ray Vaz
Patrick Vecchio
Nick Verzella
Eli Vetrano
Col. Khamnoon Viengkham
George M. Vujnovich
Donald R. Waful
David T. Wallingford

Robert E. Walsh
Allen Wanderlich
Mimi Wang
George E. Wargo, Sr.
Jeremy Warneke
Richard Warren
Rich Washington
James E. Washington
Judith M. Watson
Eric C. Weber
John Webster
Specialist Wilbur Weder
Frederick Wedin
Edward R. Wehrheim
John Weigand
Loretta Weiss
Patrick W. Welch, Ph.D.
Gerry West
Mary Westmoreland
John White
Jerry White Sr.
Lester Wilensky
Randolph Wilkerson
Ted N. Wilkinson
Jerry Williams
Linda Anesta Williams
Harold Williams
Johnnie H. Williams Jr.
Mark A. Wilmot
James A. Wilson
Jackie L. Wilson
William R. Wilson III
Jamie-Lynn Winkler



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

RECIPIENTS 2005-2022

Dennis L. Wolfe, Sr.

Fang A. Wong

William Charles Wood III

Thomas R. Wood Sr

Roger L. Woodworth

Jacob Worrell

William Yale

Lillian Yonally

Ed Zaluski

Louis Zamperini

David Zapsky

Nicholas Zingaro

Anthony Zippo

Mario A. Zorovic



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Blank lined paper for writing, framed by a dark blue border with a star pattern at the top and bottom.







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