



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins



Senator John J. Flanagan



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

Dear Veterans, Friends and Families:

Welcome to the annual Veterans' Hall of Fame Ceremony. It is with a great sense of pride and admiration that we in the New York State Senate are once again honoring and recognizing outstanding veterans from the Empire State who have distinguished themselves both in military and civilian life.

The veterans gathered here today have given their lives to a cause greater than themselves and, in doing so, have protected our country and way of life. Today we honor these heroic New Yorkers whom we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their past bravery in military endeavors has helped shape the American landscape - a country of strength, freedom and diverse beauty.

Many of those here today have also contributed extensively to their communities. These are not only veterans, but community organizers, teachers, small business owners, police officers, firefighters, emergency personnel and first responders.

Finally, as we pay homage to all the veterans, let us not forget the families - fathers, mothers, daughters and sons - who also participated in the rich tradition of military life. Thank you all for your laudable service to our nation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Stewart-Cousins".

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Democratic
Conference Leader

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Flanagan".

Senator John J. Flanagan
Temporary President
Majority Leader



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

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY

November 11, 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. This momentous event effectively ended all military operations and hostilities in all theatres and fronts of World War I.

At 5:00 a.m. on that historic morning, Germany, depleted of manpower and supplies and faced with imminent invasion, signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiègne, France. Also known as "The Great War" and "The War to End All Wars," the First World War began in 1914 and left nine million soldiers dead and 21 million wounded, with Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, France, and Great Britain each losing nearly a million or more lives. In addition, at least five million civilians died from disease, starvation or exposure. In total, 52,947 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice and 202,628 were wounded.

The first official Armistice Day events were held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace, England on the morning of November 11, 1919. Also in November 1919, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. These observances inspired a day of remembrance throughout the world.

On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution that the "recurring anniversary of November 11, 1918 should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations." Armistice Day became a federal holiday in the United States on May 13, 1938, "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'"

In 1954, after lobbying efforts by veterans' service organizations across the country, Congress amended the 1938 Act, changing the word "Armistice" to "Veterans." President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954. From then on, November 11 became a day to honor the brave and steadfast American veterans of all wars.



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

PROGRAM

OPENING OF CEREMONY

Julia Lilkendey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL HONOREE INDUCTION

SPEAKERS

Senator John J. Flanagan

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins

INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES

Julia Lilkendey

SPECIAL THANKS

Gettysburg Flag Works for their
generous donation of centerpieces.

www.gettysburgflag.com

Susan E. Wells

Stars4ourTroops@aol.com



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

NELSON EDDY RIVERA

Nelson Eddy Rivera is the Director of the Dutchess County Division of Veterans' Services.

Mr. Rivera enlisted in the United States Navy in 1975. He served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the first Gulf War and remained in Saudi Arabia, working with the Saudi Navy for four years until his military retirement. Some of Mr. Rivera's many duty assignments during his 20-year military career included: Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pacific Missile Range Barking Sands, San Diego, California; Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific Representative, Chief, Naval Forces Division, U.S. Military Training Mission, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

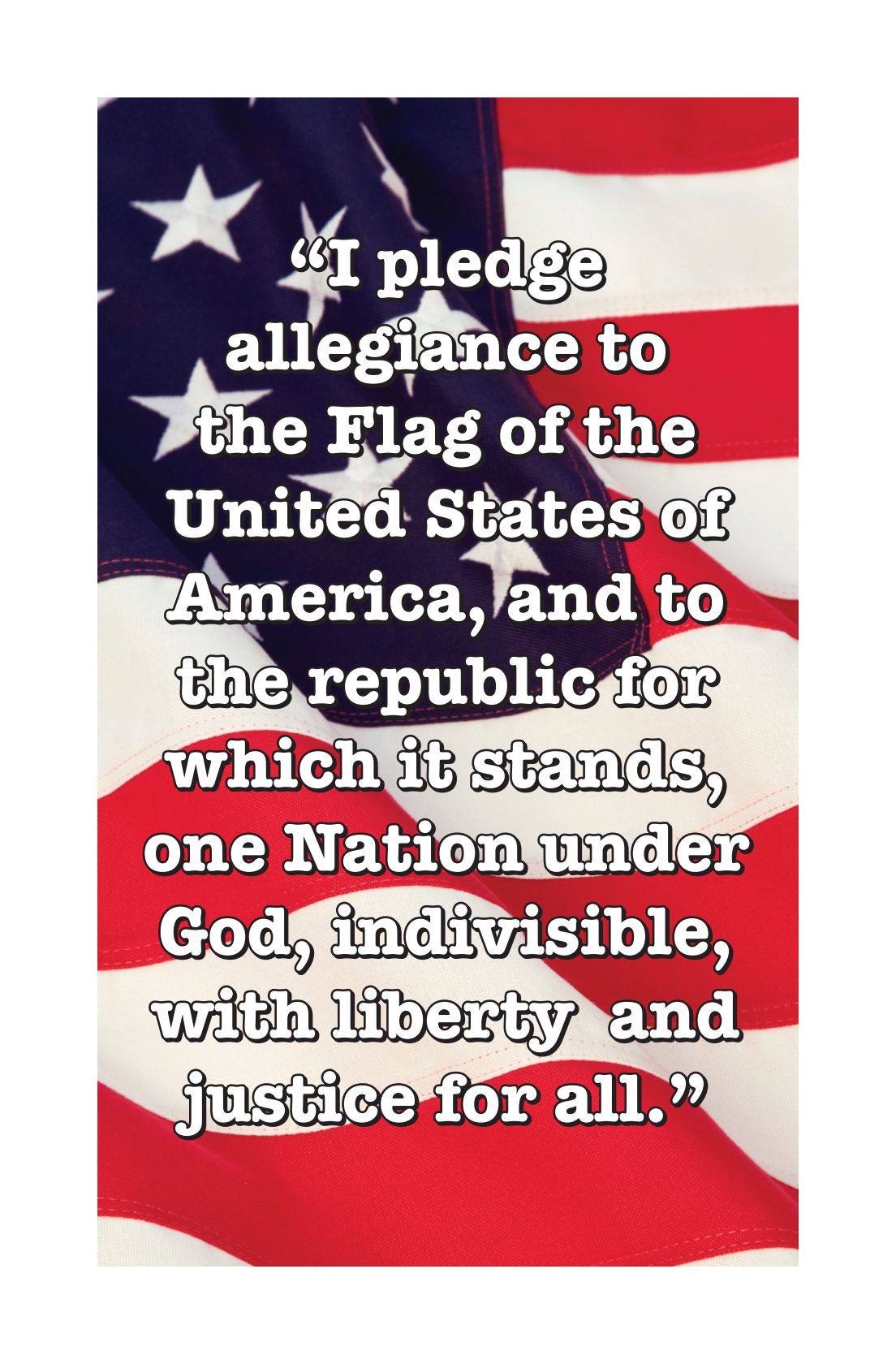
Mr. Rivera is also qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist. He has received numerous awards and medals, including the Navy Achievement Medal, Battle "E" Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (4 awards), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (3 awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Pistol Marksmanship Medal, and "Service Officer of the Year 2012" by the American Legion Department of New York.

Upon his military retirement, Mr. Rivera worked for the Veterans Health Administration at VA Hudson Valley Health Care System and received a gubernatorial appointment to serve on the New York State Council on Returning Veterans and Their Families, a position he has held since 2009. He is the Past President of the County Veteran's Service Officers Association, having represented over 80 veterans' service counselors across the state.

Mr. Rivera remains active at VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, with the United Way Dutchess-Orange Region, Congressman Maloney's Veteran Advisory Board and the Town of Plattekill Veterans Committee. He and his wife, Christina, reside in Plattekill and have three grown children and seven grandchildren.



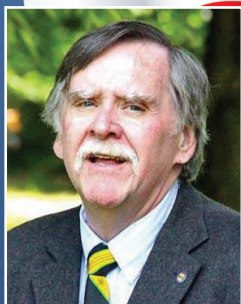
NELSON EDDY RIVERA IS A SPECIAL LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD NOMINEE. A RESIDENT OF SENATOR WILLIAM J. LARKIN, JR.'S DISTRICT, HE IS BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE FULL NEW YORK STATE SENATE.

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text is overlaid on this background.

**“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.”**

2018 HONOREES





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

MICHAEL O'KANE

Michael O'Kane, who has served as President of Vietnam Veterans of America Queens Chapter 32, was born in Brooklyn in 1948.

P03 O'Kane enlisted in the United States Navy in 1966 and attended Great Lakes "Boot" Camp prior to being assigned to the U.S.S. Implicit (MSO-455). Implicit home ported in Long Beach, California, was deployed to WestPac and participated in Operation "Market Time," which was the most successful counter-insurgency operation of the Vietnam War.

Following his time on Implicit, P03 O'Kane was transferred to the U.S.S. Widgeon (MSC-208), which was ported in Sasebo, Japan. Widgeon deployed to Camranh Bay RVN, and also operated with I.U.W.G.-1 in Operation "Market Time." Widgeon engaged the enemy many times in firefights along various rivers and canals in the RVN, earning the ship the Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the U.S. Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and Meritorious Unit Citation.

In honor of his service, P03 O'Kane was awarded the National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal (with three campaign stars), Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Meritorious Unit Citation. He left the United States Navy in 1970 after achieving the rank of Petty Officer Third Class, and began a distinguished career with New York Telephone, retiring in 1998.

P03 O'Kane continues to be very active in his community as a member of Queens Community Board #5. Until recently, he led the Vietnam Veterans of America Queens Chapter 32, serving as a strong advocate for other former military members. He has worked especially hard to ensure that indigent veterans of all eras and conflicts are provided proper burials. To date, Chapter 32 has worked with local Hess-Miller Funeral Home to ensure dignified final resting places for 127 veterans.

Michael married his best friend, Cathy, in 1979, and they live in Glendale, Queens with their two cats, Yuki and Tuck.



**MICHAEL O'KANE IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.**



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

MARIO A. ZOROVIC

Mario A. Zorovic nobly joined the United States Army in 2006 immediately after high school. He served honorably as part of the 111th Engineering Group of the 1st Engineer Battalion, also known as "Big Red One" from 2005 – 2009, and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A decorated combat veteran, Sgt. Zorovic was awarded a Combat Action Badge, the National Defense Service Medal and the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for Valor for his exceptionally courageous actions as a combat engineer during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Without regard for his own safety, Sgt. Zorovic dismounted his vehicle and moved through intense enemy fire in order to take effective control of a recovery operation. His bravery and technical skills allowed the patrol to successfully recover mission-critical equipment and defeat the enemy. Sgt. Zorovic's heroism contributed immeasurably to the success of building a free and democratic nation for the citizens of Iraq and aligned with the finest traditions of military heroism.

In 2009, Sgt. Zorovic was honorably discharged from active duty and immediately joined the United States Army Reserve until 2016. During this time, he earned his Associate's degree in Criminal Justice.

In an effort to more closely serve his local community and follow in the footsteps of his father, a retired New York City Police Officer, Sgt. Zorovic became a member of the New York State Police on August 4, 2014. He has been described by his superiors and colleagues as an extremely talented trooper and a pleasure to work with, who can be relied upon to handle any situation. Aside from patrol, Trooper Zorovic performs several other specialized duties for the State Police, including serving as a Firearms Instructor and as a Field Training Officer.

Trooper Zorovic currently lives in Windsor with his wife, Correy, his son, Mario, and a daughter expected to join the family in August.



**MARIO A. ZOROVIC IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR FRED AKSHAR.**



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

APHIEL FERNANDEZ

Aphiel Fernandez was born and raised in Washington Heights to Dominican parents. After graduating from high school, he went on to work as a cabinet maker at JD Custom Carpentry on Jerome Avenue in the Bronx. As a carpenter, Mr. Fernandez began his apprenticeship training with the carpenters union in April 2008.

As graduating as a journeyman from his apprenticeship program, and with an overwhelming desire to serve his country, Mr. Fernandez went on to join the United States Marine Corps. During his time as a Marine, Mr. Fernandez's official military occupational specialty was electrical engineer.

Mr. Fernandez completed his military service as a Lance Corporal in November 2015. Since his time in the Corps, he has established his own construction remodeling company, which he operates in New York City.



**APHIEL FERNANDEZ IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR MARISOL ALCÁNTARA.**



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

HAROLD BURKE, JR.

Sergeant E-5 Harold Burke Jr. served in the United States Army from 1966-69, with a variety of units in Vietnam. He is the recipient of the National Defense Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Vietnam Service Medal with six Battle stars.

Harold Burke's service to his nation and fellow veterans continued when he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1895, in Schenectady in 1979. He still maintains his Legacy Gold Membership, and throughout the years, has held many positions including Post Commander. SGT Burke received All State Post Commander honors and moved on to become District Commander, where he received All State District Commander and All American District Commander honors.

In June 2003, SGT Burke was elected State Commander. He served as Department Quartermaster in that position from 2005-09. Later, he was elected Department Judge Advocate from 2013-16. He was subsequently appointed Department Adjutant, and continues to serve in that capacity.

During the 114th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, SGT Burke was elected National Judge Advocate General. He is also a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and the Elks.

In addition to his passionate advocacy on behalf of his fellow veterans, SGT Burke worked for 38 years for the Lockheed Martin Corporation and served as a volunteer firefighter from 1973 to 2016.

SGT Burke has been married to his wife, Carol, for 46 years and they have two sons, Harold III and Andrew, and two grandchildren, Abigail, who is 2 years old and Theodore, who is 13 months old.



**HAROLD BURKE, JR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR GEORGE AMEDORE, JR.**



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

JASON A. KAATZ

Jason A. Kaatz began his service in the United States Army in March 1964. He served in Vietnam from November 1964 to December 1967 with the 161st Assault Helicopter Company, 52nd and 14th Combat Aviation Battalions, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. While in Vietnam, Mr. Kaatz was assigned to work with the Republic of South Korea Tiger Division, South Vietnamese 22nd ARVN Division, 5th Special Forces and Special Operations Group in Binh Dinh Province, operating out of Lane Army Air Field.

Mr. Kaatz was honorably discharged from the Army in March 1970. During his service, he received numerous awards, including the Vietnam Service Medal with three battle stars, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 50 Devices, Aircraft Crewman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Award, and Valorous Unit Citations.

Mr. Kaatz's service to his country and community did not end when he left the Army, as he continued to serve with numerous veterans organizations. He served on the National Executive Committee of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States and was Queens County Commander and Commander of the Bell-Oak Post 648.

In his private life, Mr. Kaatz has worked as a security consultant and investigator.

He currently resides in Bellerose with his wife.



**JASON A. KAATZ IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR TONY AVELLA.**



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

KRISTYN BRIEZ REED

Director of the Mt. Vernon Veterans Services Agency, Kristyn Briez Reed comes from a family with generations of proud military service, including her father, sisters, grandfathers, uncles, and cousins. A lifelong Mt. Vernon resident, she enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) as a Communication Navigation Mission Systems Specialist after graduating from Mt. Vernon High School.

While stationed at Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, Ms. Reed was responsible for troubleshooting and repair of RADAR, sensor, radio, navigation equipment, and other general aircraft maintenance tasks aboard AC130-U gunships. She deployed to Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and earned numerous awards, letters of appreciation, a Commendation Medal, a NYS Medal for Merit, and NYS Conspicuous Service Star. Upon separation from the Air Force, Ms. Reed earned degrees in Avionics Systems Technology, Industrial Management, Criminal Justice and Social Work, and an M.A. in Business and Workplace Education from New York University.

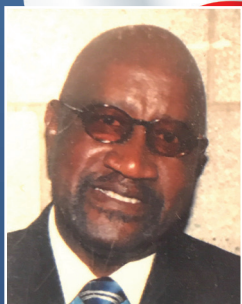
After working as a career counselor, veteran service representative, and grants manager for five years, Ms. Reed returned to her hometown of Mt. Vernon, where she was appointed the first female director of the veterans service agency in the city's history. During her tenure with the City of Mt. Vernon, she has refocused the Agency's priorities, reestablished its accreditation, modernized operations, regained compliance with state and federal laws, and applied for and recouped the largest grant awards in the Agency's history.

Director Reed enjoys assisting veterans to obtain the benefits that their service to this country has earned. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Barbara Giordano Foundation, Inc. for women veterans, an operating foundation that offers no-cost healing and wellness programs to women veterans.

Director Reed resides in Mt. Vernon with her husband, fellow USAF veteran, Larry, and their two children, Ev Loren and Lenox.



**KRISTYN BRIEZ REED IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY.**



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

SAMUEL HILL, JR.

Mr. Samuel Hill, Jr. was born on December 10, 1941 in Conemaugh, Pennsylvania. He joined the Marine Corps in 1962, proudly serving his country during the Cuban crisis era.

One of Mr. Hill's favorite memories is serving the United States in Puerto Rico, Japan and many other countries.

Currently the Senior Membership & Program Coordinator with the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Hill's dedication to his community is evident in numerous ways. Each year during the Christmas season, he donates toys to many different shelters, daycare centers and to kids throughout his Harlem, New York community – a place he is proud to call home.



**SAMUEL HILL, JR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR BRIAN A. BENJAMIN.**



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

THOMAS J. "TAILSPIN" MORLEY, JR.

Thomas J. "Tailspin" Morley Jr. was born December 9, 1949 in Astoria, Queens. He graduated from high school in 1967 and attended Pace College for one year, but desired to serve his country in the Vietnam War.

Having successfully completed the Army Flight Aptitude test, Mr. Morley was sworn in to the Army, completed his training, and was appointed Warrant Officer 1st Class (WO1), receiving his orders for Vietnam.

On August 24, 1970, while preparing for a routine mission, WO1 Morley was advised of a downed scout aircraft. Upon arriving, he observed the downed helicopter on its side. After three attempts to hover down through the canopy unsuccessfully, a medevac Huey was summoned. While hovering and attempting to extract the survivors, enemy opened heavy fire on the helicopters; the crew chief of the downed helicopter began to return fire, as did WO1 Morley's crew chief. Having sustained 43 bullet hits, the hovering medevac aircraft was able to move ½ mile away to a clearing and make a successful forced landing. WO1 Morley landed beside them, transferred and airlifted the dead and wounded directly to Long Binh Army Evac Hospital. Voluntarily returning to the crashsite, WO1 Morley coordinated a second medevac aircraft and the removal of the remaining crew survivors.

WO1 Morley received promotion to Chief Warrant Officer 2nd Class on December 1, 1970. During his one-year tour in Vietnam, he flew over 300 combat missions, accumulating more than 1,296 hours of flying time. After Vietnam, he returned to civilian life and Pace University to complete his degree. WO1 Morley joined the Active Army Reserves and subsequently, the NYANG, maintaining his flying status. Upon his separation from the service in 2008, he had attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.

In January 1974, Thomas Morley became a NYS Trooper. He worked 25 years between Troop K and Troop C, before retiring in May 1999.



**THOMAS J. MORLEY, JR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOHN J. BONACIC.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

SABRINA LACY

Suffolk County VFW Commander Sabrina Lacy joined the United States Army in 1985 as a young woman. She served one year in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division, approximately 15 miles from the DMZ area, and in the field in a variety of hospitals from Walter Reed, Manhattan VA, Brooklyn VA and West Point. In total, she served our country for 20 years, earning the rank of Sergeant.

After being honorably discharged, SGT Lacy joined the U.S. Army Reserves, earned an Associate's Degree in Management Information, her LPN in 1992, a BA in Organizational Management, and worked as an LPN in various hospitals throughout Long Island. Following 9/11, SGT Lacy worked as a nurse at Bellevue Hospital, where she cared for the injured from Ground Zero. She was called up for active duty to serve in Operation New Dawn in Germany at Wiesbaden and Landstuhl Hospitals, and tended to injured soldiers and their families during the War in Afghanistan and the Iraq War. After this tour ended, she completed her Master's degree in Leadership.

SGT Lacy received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components-Achievement Medal (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Armed Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award) and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (5th Award).

Commander Lacy is the first black woman to hold this post at the Suffolk County VFW. For the past 10 years, she has served as a volunteer and Commander of the Brentwood VFW. She is a member of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary, American Legion, AMVETS, Blue Star Moms of America and the Disabled American Veterans. She is also the Co-Host of Veterans News on Channel 20, and the Minister of the "Lift A Hand to a Veteran Ministry," as well as a Chaplain and instructor with the New York State Chaplain Task Force, and Chair of the Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission.

Commander Lacy is the proud mother of two daughters and one grandson.



**SABRINA LACY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR PHIL BOYLE.**



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

HENRY ROSENZWEIG, SR.

Henry Rosenzweig, Sr. of Colonie was born on March 11, 1948 to John and Barbara Rosenzweig, the third of eight children. His father was a WW II veteran, as was his uncle, who lost an arm in battle.

Mr. Rosenzweig enlisted in the Army in November 1966, and while in basic training in Ft. Lewis, Washington, he received his draft notice. His service included two back-to-back tours in Vietnam with the Military Advisory Command-Vietnam (MACV) and the Republic of Korea's fearsome "Tiger Division." Mr. Rosenzweig was wounded in action in August 1968 and recovered consciousness in a military hospital in Japan. He spent the next eight months recuperating at St. Albans Naval Hospital on Long Island. PFC Rosenzweig received the Purple Heart medal for his injuries.

Returning to civilian life, PFC Rosenzweig became a member of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 7 and began a career that lasted 35 years. He is an active member of the veterans community, currently holding positions in the following organizations: American Legion: County POW/MIA Chair, Colonie Post 1256 Adjutant; Disabled American Veterans: Chapter 10 Treasurer, VAVS Officer @ Stratton VA; Military Order of the Purple Heart: Chapter 446 Commander, Dept. Finance Officer; Voiture 348 of the Forty and Eight: Correspondent; Tri County Council Vietnam Era Veterans: Director; Fuller Road Fire Department: Finance Secretary (Life Member).

PFC Rosenzweig is also a member of the Veterans of Lansingburgh; Retired Enlisted Association: Chapter 120; Volunteer: Stratton VA Medical Center; Volunteer: Hudson Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; Our Lady of Angels Church: Past Parish Council Member, Bingo Chairman; and the Albany County Honor a Vet Committee.

PFC Rosenzweig and his wife, Mary Ann, have three children, Henry Jr., Joel and Mary, and four grandchildren, Riley, Sadie, Anna and Jesse, Jr.



**HENRY ROSENZWEIG, SR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR NEIL BRESLIN.**



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

JORGE L. ROSARIO

Jorge L. Rosario enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1995, later achieving the rank of Sergeant as a military policeman. He was commissioned as an Officer in the JAG Corp in 2003, and retired in 2017 with the rank of Major, with 22 years of both reserve and active duty status.

On September 11, 2001, Major Rosario was sent to secure sites in New York City. He is a veteran of Operation Noble Eagle 2002 with the 306th Military Police. He was a Captain with the 10th Mountain Infantry Division in the area of International Operational Law during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Major Rosario is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon, Armed Reserve Medal with Bronze Hourglass, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Overseas Training Ribbon. He currently serves as Bureau Chief Supervising Attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County's Children's Law Bureau representing the rights and interests of children in Suffolk Family Court.

Major Rosario also serves as a volunteer basketball coach for St. Patrick's CYO and volunteer baseball coach. He recently started a not-for-profit, Wyandanch-Wheatley Heights Baseball & Sports Initiatives, to provide low-income children with opportunities to play sports and avoid negative distractions.

Major Rosario is the new Commander of VFW Post 2912. He has held events such as the Veteran's Job and Resource Fair, and coordinates with attorneys providing free or low-cost representation to veterans. He works with Rothco and its employees, helping to manage the thousands of dollars being donated to the veterans homeless shelter and an outreach center, which provides many community services, including children's summer camps and a place for the homeless to eat, sleep and stay out of the winter cold.



**JORGE L. ROSARIO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOHN E. BROOKS.**



MEGAN LEAVEY AND REX

Corporal Megan Leavey grew up in Valley Cottage. After the tragic events of 9/11, she left college and joined the Marines. She attended boot camp at Parris Island, SC and underwent a further year of training, including Marine Combat, Military Police, and K9 training. CPL Leavey was stationed in Camp Pendleton, CA as part of the Military Police K9 section and was partnered with a Military Working Dog named Rex.

Rex E168 served from May 14, 2002 to April 6, 2012. During this time, he was stationed out of Camp Pendleton, CA. In total, Rex performed over 11,575 hours of military work. During his time at Camp Pendleton, he searched over 6,220 vehicles in random anti-terrorism searches and 7,800 barracks rooms during 260 official command authorized health and comfort inspections.

Together, CPL Leavey and Rex served two tours in Iraq – Fallujah in 2005 and Ramadi in 2006. While there and throughout his service, Rex served honorably as a patrol and explosive-hunting dog. He was often in harm's way, getting caught in firefights and mortar attacks. Toward the end of their second tour together, CPL Leavey and Rex were both injured when insurgents who were watching them from rooftops as they patrolled the area detonated an IED as they walked by. CPL Leavey returned stateside with Rex to complete physical therapy. She received a Purple Heart and other combat medals for her service.

While undergoing physical therapy, CPL Leavey helped train fellow dog handlers for future deployment. She was discharged in December 2007, but was unable to take Rex home with her. Rex was prohibited from further combat tours, but was assigned several times to assist the Secret Service, protecting the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, and member of the U.N. General Assembly. Rex's enthusiasm, initiative and loyal devotion were valued greatly.

As Rex's service came to a close, he was deemed "not adoptable." After much effort, CPL Leavey was able to get Rex back, and he spent the last 8 months of his life with his beloved handler.

CPL Leavey continued to handle K9s after her discharge, working closely with a dog named Patriot in New York City, who has since been retired and lives with her and her two cats. This hero currently works as a veterinary technician and brand ambassador for Royal Canin. The story of CPL Leavey and Rex was told in the 2017 film *Megan Leavey*, starring Kate Mara. CPL Leavey's service and love of animals is a source of inspiration for us all.



**MEGAN LEAVEY AND K9 REX ARE NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR DAVID CARLUCCI.**



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

BERNARD L. "BEN" THOMPSON

Bernard L. "Ben" Thompson of St. Albans was born and raised in Jamaica, New York. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served one tour of duty in Vietnam with the 559th Tactical Fighter Squadron as a Weapons Specialist/Heavy Ordnance.

In 1980, Mr. Thompson joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at Proctor-Hopson Post #1896 in Jamaica, became a life member the following year, and was elected Post Commander from 1983 to 1985. Each year, he received the high honor of "All State Post Commander." Currently, Mr. Thompson serves as Vice President of the Post's Memorial Association, and since 1985, he has held the office of Post Quartermaster.

In addition, Mr. Thompson was elected Queens County Council Commander from 1986 to 1987 and District #1 Commander for the term 1997 to 1998. On the State level, he has held various chairmanships and served on various committees, and in 2001, was elected to the high office of State Commander. He has served on various national committees and as the Chairman of the Eastern States Conference. In 2009, Mr. Thompson was elected to serve a two-year term on the National Council of Administration as the National Council Member representing the Department of New York.

Mr. Thompson is a life member of the 369th Veterans Association, AMVETS and Disabled American Veterans, a member of the Air Force Association, and on the Board of Directors of the New York Military Ministry & Fellowship Group. He is currently employed by the U.S. Department of State, New York Despatch Agency where he holds the position of Despatch Agent of the United States.

"Big Ben" would like to be known as a comrade who is honored to serve his fellow veterans and his community.



**BERNARD L. "BEN" THOMPSON IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR LEROY COMRIE.**



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

DENNIS O'DOHERTY, SR.

Born in Limerick, Ireland, Dennis O'Doherty, Sr. graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School in Brooklyn and worked for a law firm in New York City before joining the U.S. Army on January 25, 1943. He trained at Fort Jackson, South Carolina before going overseas on April 22, 1944, where he was assigned to Troop C, 2nd Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized).

While overseas, Corporal O'Doherty was assigned to the Third U.S. Army as a Corporal squad leader and also drove a machine gun jeep. Corporal O'Doherty served under General George S. Patton's command from the beaches of Normandy to Czechoslovakia and received five Bronze Stars for participating in the campaigns and battles of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe.

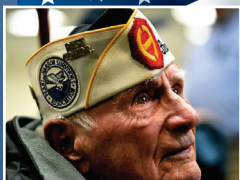
After the War, Corporal O'Doherty graduated from Sampson College and the American Institute of Banking and began a career in governmental and corporate finance marketing. In 1968, Corporal O'Doherty, along with his wife, Joanne, and others, bought *the Suffolk County News*, a 100-year-old weekly newspaper with a circulation of 10,000 readers. Corporal O'Doherty set up a newspaper archival department and, along with the Sayville Public Library, developed a microfilm section for the newspaper for reference and research purposes. These records are still presently available on microfilm at the Sayville Public Library.

In 1972, Corporal O'Doherty was elected to the New York State Legislature, representing the people of Suffolk County's Fifth Assembly District. He has served on the Board of Dowling College, as a trustee of Long Island Health and Hospital Planning, the Boy Scouts of America, and as Director of the South Shore Boys Club. He is a member of the Islip Town Planning Board, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Corporal O'Doherty resides in Sayville, Long Island and is the father of two children and one grandchild.



**DENNIS O'DOHERTY, SR., IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR THOMAS D. CROCI.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

LAWRENCE C. PARRY (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Lawrence "Larry" C. Parry of Baldwinsville was born and raised in Syracuse. He worked in farming before bravely enlisting in the United States Army in December 1939 at the age of 19. From Syracuse, he was sent to Fort Armstrong in Honolulu, Oahu for basic training and became skilled as an Army motor mechanic. Mr. Parry served from 1939 to 1942 and was honorably discharged with the rank of Technician Fourth Grade.

Sgt. Parry is a Pearl Harbor survivor. On December 7, 1941, he was playing football with some of his comrades when he looked to the sky and saw waves of Japanese planes overhead. Sgt. Parry vividly remembers seeing the death and destruction that would follow, as several U.S. battleships were destroyed during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. For his noble service, Sgt. Parry was awarded the American Defense Service Medal w/Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After his faithful discharge in December 1942, Sgt. Parry returned home to Syracuse, got married in 1944, and had two children, Susan and Frederick. Frederick also served in the military and earned the Purple Heart. Sgt. Parry continued to work as a mechanic in different Syracuse-area auto shops and always shared a zest for life with others.

Sgt. Parry has returned to Pearl Harbor multiple times to pay tribute to history. In 2016, he traveled to Hawaii to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor. A year later, on December 7, 2017, he was one of six WWII veterans who went to Washington, D.C. to be honored by President Donald Trump at a White House ceremony that proclaimed "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

Sgt. Parry is a patriot who has served his country with honor and distinction and has contributed immensely to his Central New York community.



LAWRENCE C. PARRY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO.



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

LAQUASIA NUNEZ

United States Army Intelligence Officer, 1st Lieutenant Laquasia Nunez was born and raised in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

A graduate of P.S. 299K, and Salutatorian of P.S. 299K, Lt. Nunez learned early to work hard and work honestly. These became her guiding principles. She went on to become an honors student at Halsey Middle School 296, before attending Deer Park High School on Long Island, graduating in June 2008 as an accomplished athlete and honor roll scholar. At only age 16, Lt. Nunez was accepted at the University at Hartford. Before entering her junior year, she took an academic break and enlisted in the United States Army National Guard. The Army life, and its mission and values, quickly took hold. Serving her nation and defending freedom is her calling.

Within three years, Lt. Nunez acquired two Military Occupational Specialties (MOS), Logistics Specialist (92A), and Avionics and Survivability Equipment Repairer (94R). With these skills, she was selected to serve on a Joint Task Force in New York State. While active, and a full-time student, she was called upon to serve the people of New York in response to Hurricane Sandy.

In 2014, Lt. Nunez earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the City University of New York. She immediately transferred to active duty and departed for training as an Army Military Intelligence Officer. Upon completion, she deployed to Afghanistan.

Lt. Nunez returned from her Afghanistan deployment to earn a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Grand Canyon University. She is on track to graduate in May 2019 and aspires to make a difference in the lives of soldiers and future patients.



**LAQUASIA NUNEZ IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR MARTIN MALAVÉ DILAN.**



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

MARIO BUONPANE (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Mr. Mario Buonpane was a tireless advocate for fellow veterans who will forever be remembered as a pillar in the Huntington community. He taught all he came into contact with the meaning of hard work, trust and honor. Drafted into the United States Army, Mr. Buonpane served as a Technical Specialist with the first mobile guided missile crew that helped protect Western Europe during the Korean War.

Following an honorable discharge, Mr. Buonpane graduated from Long Island University with a degree in electrical engineering and his Master's degree in Business Administration, before beginning a career at Grumman Corporation. At Grumman, he worked on the historic Lunar Module segment of the Apollo space program before retiring in the late 1990s.

Locally, Mr. Buonpane joined American Legion Post 694 in Northport in 1978 and served in several leadership positions, including Post Commander and on the Board of Directors. During this service, he led the restoration of the Northport VA Hospital Golf Course. Funds generated from the Course help wounded veterans with their medical expenses.

To enhance the lives of Town of Huntington veterans, he was a founding member of the Town's Veterans Advisory Board and served as chairman from 1993 until his passing. In this role, he helped create Veteran's Plaza to honor his belief that military service is a significant sacrifice and that those who serve should be honored.

Personally, Mr. Buonpane successfully trained to run and complete the Great Cow Harbor 10 kilometer race and the New York City Marathon.

While his dedication to his community is inspiring, his commitment to his family is his true legacy. He and his wife of 58 years, Beatrice, are the parents of Karen, Nancy and Mark, and at the time of his passing, two grandchildren.



**MARIO BUONPANE IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOHN J. FLANAGAN.**



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

PETER J. GLENNON

Major Peter J. Glennon served in the U.S. Air Force and New York Air National Guard for more than 24 years, retiring in May 2015. Known as a “mustang” in military parlance, Major Glennon first enlisted in 1991 at the age of 17, which required his father’s permission and signature, and later served as an officer after earning a commission in 2000. Beginning as an Avionics Systems Technician, Major Glennon held a variety of positions during his service, including Squadron Commander, Operations Group Executive Officer and JAG Officer. Major Glennon earned his associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, and then graduated from law school, all while serving in the military.

Major Glennon received numerous recognitions, awards, and medals during his service, including two Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, and several Air Force Achievement Medals.

Although retired from military service, Major Glennon continues serving his community in a variety of capacities, with a focus on supporting veterans. Most notably, he is a co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Honor Flight Rochester, Inc., which has flown more than 2,800 veterans to Washington D.C. over the past 10 years.

Major Glennon has spoken at numerous events and schools, including the 55th Senate District’s “Take a Veteran to School” program, where he talks about Honor Flight and military service in order to educate today’s youth about the sacrifice of our military members. He also is a proud member of the Pittsford Rayson-Miller American Legion Post #899, serves as a vice president of the Rochester Rotary Club, and is a member the St. Louis Council Knights of Columbus in Pittsford.

Major Glennon is the principal of The Glennon Law Firm, P.C. and lives in Pittsford with his wife, Kimberly, and their four children.



**PETER J. GLENNON IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR RICH FUNKE.**



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

LEONARD B. CONNELLY

Leonard Connelly began a storied life of service to his country and his community by enlisting in the United States Navy in March 1945, shortly after he graduated from East Aurora High School. He trained at Boot Camp Sampson and attended a 16-week Service School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Mr. Connelly served aboard DMS 23, a minesweeper, in the Atlantic during World War II, and was honorably discharged in 1947 as a Seaman First Class-Gunners Mate.

After his Navy service, Mr. Connelly attended the University at Buffalo, graduating in 1953 with a degree in accounting. He worked at Sylvania in Buffalo before being transferred to the Sylvania plant in Arcade, New York, which later became Motorola. During his 35-year career, Mr. Connelly served as assistant plant manager, material control manager and production control manager.

Mr. Connelly has selflessly served the Arcade community in many positions, including: Commander and Trustee of Arcade VFW Post #374; a member of American Legion Post #1720 in Bliss; Secretary of Arcade Overseas Veteran's Club; Supervisor of the Town of Arcade; President of the Arcade Chamber of Commerce; and Chairman of the Catholic Charities Drive for 25 years. He is also an active member of his church and numerous community organizations.

In addition, Mr. Connelly has been a member of the Arcade Fire Department for over 50 years. He was named Fire Person of the Year in 1998 and continues to serve as a member of the Fire Police, responding to most of the Department's calls.



**LEONARD B. CONNELLY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR PATRICK GALLIVAN.**



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

BOB MURPHY

Bob Murphy has been a lifelong New York resident. His commitment to improving the lives of others has reached across the spectrum, serving his community and his country for more than 40 years. Born in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, Mr. Murphy attended St. Michael's grammar school and the former Alexander Hamilton High School.

After high school, Mr. Murphy spent a year as an architectural draftsman before volunteering for the United States Air Force at age 19 in 1966. He went on to boot camp and additional specialized training in Texas, where he became an aviation mechanic, trained to work on F101 and B57 aircraft. He served at bases across the world, including in Westhampton, New York; Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts; Grand Forks, North Dakota; Florida and Iceland. He ultimately attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and served as a flight line chief before leaving the service in 1970.

After the Air Force, Mr. Murphy attended Farmingdale State and Brooklyn College, and ultimately graduated from the College of Insurance. He went to work for the Empire Insurance Group, where he rose through the ranks and became Vice President of Claims.

While at Empire Insurance, he met his wife, Sally, and they married in 1983. Together they share four boys – Jason, who graduated from Fordham University and recently married; Christopher, who graduated from Hunter College; Michael, who graduated from Baruch College; and Timothy, who is currently attending LaGuardia Community College.

Mr. Murphy has been a long-time community volunteer. Since 2003, he has served as President of NYICYP, a youth sports program in Queens. NYICYP has programs in baseball, teeball, softball, and football. He has worked to involve students from St. John's Prep, PS 101, PS 85, and other schools in the league.



**BOB MURPHY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS.**



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

CONCEPCION "CONNIE" RANOCCHIA

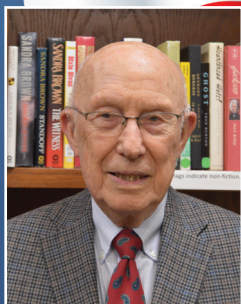
Concepcion "Connie" Ranocchia is a dedicated veteran with a broad range of skills and experience in business operations, business development, sales management, strategic planning, retention strategies, training, and process improvements. There is no doubt that she is Army-trained and experienced in planning and executing programs at many levels for various organizations. Ms. Ranocchia's ability to work with and understand multi-disciplinary teams and get them to focus on a singular goal is one of her many strengths. She is detail-oriented, a team player and has an enviable work ethic.

In the spirit of giving back to her country, Ms. Ranocchia has dedicated her time to volunteering with numerous veterans organizations. She has been a member of the American Legion since 1998, served as a Commander of Kings Highway Post #1358 and as Commander of Amity Post #791; she volunteered for Memorial Day Parade organization and assisted at the Brooklyn VA Hospital. Ms. Ranocchia was instrumental in organizing the community's clothing/recycle program for Vietnam Veterans of America, Thomas P Coughlin Memorial Chapter 72 in Brooklyn.

Currently serving as President of Stratford Solutions, Inc./Veteran Warriors Solutions, Ms. Ranocchia manages the organization's day-to-day operations. Her military background and training help her take Stratford Solutions' service to the next level, as she is able to effectively network with veterans.



**CONCEPCION "CONNIE" RANOCCHIA IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR MARTIN J. GOLDEN.**



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

RUSSEL C. FIELDING

Russel C. Fielding serves as a shining example of America's Greatest Generation, having served his country and the cause of freedom in not one, but two wars.

Mr. Fielding first served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army's 222nd Infantry Regiment from June 1944 to September 1946, during World War II, and again as a 1st Lieutenant from April 1951 to July 1952, during the Korean Conflict.

While assigned to the 42nd Infantry's Rainbow Division during World War II, Lt. Fielding took part in several campaigns and was the proud recipient of numerous decorations, including the Silver Star, a Bronze Star, a Combat Infantry Badge and a Presidential Unit Citation. On January 25, 1945, he sustained wounds as a result of a firefight with enemy German forces at his command post, for which he was awarded a Purple Heart. In the midst of this incursion and the ensuing battle that took the lives of several of his comrades, Lt. Fielding sheltered and eventually evacuated a number of wounded enemy soldiers brought by a German medic to his command post under the cover of a Red Cross flag.

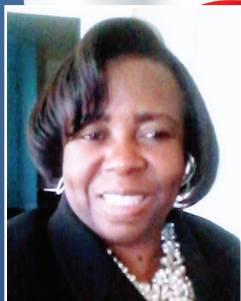
After arriving at the notorious Dachau concentration camp on the day it was liberated from German forces, Lt. Fielding witnessed firsthand some of the worst atrocities of the War, and carries those memories to this day. He also witnessed eventual justice when he attended the International War Tribunal at Nuremberg following the end of WWII.

Upon his discharge from the Army, Lt. Fielding completed his education and earned a degree from the University of Illinois. Remaining with the U.S. Army Reserve, he was called back to active duty during the Korean Conflict, where he served in a noncombat role in Korea and Japan.

Lt. Fielding had a 39-year career with the *Rome Daily Sentinel*, retiring in 1985. He and his wife, Darlene, have two children and several grandchildren.



**RUSSEL C. FIELDING IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOSEPH GRIFFO.**



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

DR. CLEOPATRA BROWN

Dr. Cleopatra Brown has been a resident of Brownsville for over 40 years. After graduating from Clara Barton H.S., she enlisted in the U.S. Navy where she proudly served her country for six years.

After retiring from military service, Dr. Brown served her community working with Wells Fargo Security in a homeless shelter in the Fort Green section of Brooklyn. She has also worked for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, becoming its youngest supervisor. Dr. Brown later had a career with the U.S. Postal Service.

After just two months of volunteering as a tutor at the Brownsville Heritage House Afterschool Program, Dr. Brown was appointed Program Director. She also became a member of Community School Board 23 and ensured that I.S. 392 became the first Gifted & Talented JHS in Brownsville.

Dr. Brown's dedication to community service and her compassion for helping others stretches beyond Brownsville. As a member of St. Paul, City of Light Ministry, she spearheaded the Community Outreach Ministry, giving back-to-school supplies to area children. For nine years, she was Chair of the Community Advisory Board of the East New York Diagnostic & Treatment Center.

When Dr. Brown answered the calling placed on her life from God, she pursued her educational career at Community Bible Institute & Seminary and travelled as a missionary to Africa, India, and Trinidad, conducting seminars and workshops and teaching biblical principles. In 2008, she was ordained as a Minister and continues to serve the poor and those in need.

Retiring after 30 years of government service, Dr. Brown has returned to the workforce, serving families and single women in homeless shelters and running her own childcare and tutoring service business.

In 2015, Dr. Brown received her Doctorate in Christian Education. She is the author of a book entitled, *Called to Teach All Nations*. She is the proud mother of two daughters, and the grandmother to one grandson.



**DR. CLEOPATRA BROWN IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JESSE HAMILTON.**



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

SYLINTHIA BURGES

Sylinthia Burges was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The daughter of a Vietnam veteran and niece to six uncles who also served in the military, she comes from a strong family tradition. This disciplined, regimented childhood influenced Ms. Burges into her young adult life. She joined the Army in 1984, after graduating from high school in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Going on to further her education, Ms. Burges graduated with her B.S. in Psychology from Fayetteville State University.

Ms. Burges worked in a military law office during a deployment to South Korea. In her last year of service, she married a military officer who served as a staff sergeant and Airborne Ranger in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

In April 2015, Ms. Burges began working with the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency and is an Accredited Veteran Service Officer and advocate for veterans. She is the first woman ever hired there to help former military personnel grapple with health, housing, family, financial and other issues. She has seen hundreds of veterans, many who have slept on trains, in cars and vacant buildings and who struggle with homelessness.

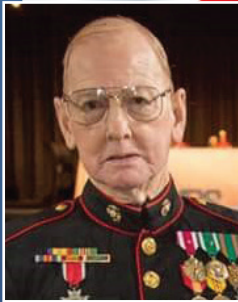
Ms. Burges is also a Mental Health Case Manager with Inman Home Health, where she advocates for high-risk children, adults, and elderly persons afflicted by mental and substance abuse disorders.

Finding an outlet for her passion for helping women veterans and changing the stigma of a female veteran being invisible, she established "Women in the Military," by recruiting a group of dedicated women veteran volunteers. A growing nonprofit organization that not only connects female veterans with crucial resources, but with each other, Ms. Burges' dream is to provide all female veterans in need with a wide range of assistance and resources.

Ms. Burges exemplifies the Army's seven core values, which encompass what she is all about: loyalty, duty, respect, personal courage, honor, integrity and selfless service.



**SYLINTHIA BURGES IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR KEMP HANNON.**



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

EDWARD L. BUTTS, JR.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Edward L. Butts, Jr. was born on April 8, 1946 in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. Mr. Butts moved with his family to Union Springs, New York and graduated from high school in 1964.

In 1965, MGySgt Butts enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and was sent to the Republic of Vietnam, where he served until 1969. After being promoted to gunnery sergeant meritoriously, he was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, where he served as the non-commissioned officer in charge. In 1977, he served as the Fleet Marine Force Pacific Engineer Operations Chief until he was ordered to New Orleans, Louisiana. There, he was promoted to his present rank and served as the Base Operations Chief. In 1986, MGySgt Butts was transferred to the Marine Corps Engineer School, where served until his retirement as the School Academic Chief.

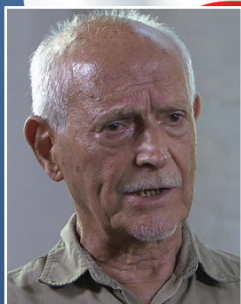
MGySgt Butts' decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation Ribbon, seven Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and Unit Cross of Gallantry.

MGySgt Butts has enjoyed serving American Legion Post 1107 in his retirement, and has held many offices, including that of Commander, numerous times. He has been actively involved in the Union Springs community throughout his entire career and retirement. He is most proud of erecting monuments engraved with local service members' names dating back to the Spanish-American War.

MGySgt Butts and his wife, Barbara, have three children, Stefanie, Edward and Michael, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



**EDWARD L. BUTTS, JR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR PAMELA A. HELMING.**



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

EDWARD FIELD

Air Force First Lieutenant Edward Field was born in Brooklyn and attended New York University. He served in World War II as a navigator in heavy bombers and flew 27 missions on a B-17 in 1945.

While based in England on his third mission over Berlin, Lt. Field's plane was damaged by flak. Down to two engines, the bomber headed back to England but ran out of fuel and crash-landed in the North Sea. The crew evacuated to two rubber rafts that broke away, leaving Lt. Field standing on the wing of the still-floating plane. A strong swimmer, he made it to one of the rafts and clung to its side in the icy water. His fellow airman, Jack Coleman Cook, died by giving up his place in the lifeboat for Field. Eventually, Lt. Field was rescued by an English ship, but Field says that he often thinks about the man who gave his life to save his.

After a period of recovery, and when the War was ended, Lt. Field went to Paris and became a poet. He later moved back to New York City where he lived with his partner, Neil Derrick, for 58 years until Derrick's recent death.

A prolific and renowned writer, Field has written nine books of poetry, his memoirs, a travel book, and the narration for an Academy Award-winning documentary, *To Be Alive* (1965).

Lt. Field is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lamont Award from the Academy of American Poets, the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, the Prix de Rome from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, and the Lambda Literary Award.



**EDWARD FIELD IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR BRAD HOYLMAN.**



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

SYDNEY COLE

Sydney Cole, born in New York City and raised in Buffalo, epitomizes the strength, bravery and character of a true American hero. The World War II veteran, who served with honor and distinction for both Canadian and American forces, will forever be remembered in the annals of history for his actions, courage and calm under fire.

First Lieutenant Cole flew an artillery observation plane for the 776th Field Artillery Battalion and was actively involved in the Battle of the Bulge. Lt. Cole's life would dramatically change after the early morning hours of his 126th mission. On January 2, 1945, his plane encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire and was shot down.

Before jumping from the damaged plane, he risked his own life to help his co-pilot evacuate the aircraft first. While parachuting, Lt. Cole was wounded multiple times by enemy gunfire during his descent and landed behind German lines.

Captured by retreating enemy troops and taken to a German prisoner of war camp, Lt. Cole was subjected to life-threatening abuse and malnourishment for over a year. Despite his ill-treated wounds and diminished body weight of only 95 pounds, Lt. Cole was instrumental in maintaining high levels of discipline and morale among his fellow POWs, and served as an inspiration and example of American military conduct while held captive.

Lt. Cole's heroism at the risk of his own life, his dedication to the principles of freedom and his exemplary devotion to duty and country, distinguish him among our greatest citizens in the State of New York and United State of America.

Rising to the rank of Captain, Mr. Cole was discharged from the U.S. Army just after Christmas 1945. He returned to Buffalo where he married his wife, Sybil Richard. The couple had a son, Richard.



**SYDNEY COLE IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR CHRIS JACOBS.**



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

FRANK COLON, JR.

Frank Colon, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1972, and served 22 years on active duty defending our nation.

Mr. Colon valiantly served in the Field Artillery Battalion, Hanau, Germany, Field Artillery Group, Vicenza, Italy, and the 563rd Military Police Company. As a Senior Non Commissioned Officer, he served as Secretary, Combined Staff for General John A. Wickham, and Commander in Chief of all Allied Forces in South Korea. Later, Sgt. Colon was assigned to the United States Army Instructor Group and the United States Army Recruiting Command until he retired as a Sergeant First Class in May 1994.

Sgt. Colon received an impressive array of service awards, which include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5th Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Good Conduct Medal (7th award), and the Army Recruiting Ring, the highest award that is given in the recruiting command.

Sgt. Colon's outstanding service to the veteran community continues through his leadership and participation in many veteran service organizations. He is the American Legion 10th District Rehab Chairman, Past Nassau County Commander of the American Legion, Past President of the Nassau County United Veterans Organization, current President of the Long Island National Cemetery Military Organization, newly elected Chef de Gare of Nassau County 40 & 8 Voiture 803, member of the Vietnam War Veterans Association, current Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 3350, and Commander of American Legion Post 303.



**FRANK COLON, JR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY.**



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

THOMAS F. HIGGINS

As a former United States Marine corporal, a Buffalo Police Officer, and later the Sheriff of Erie County, Sheriff Thomas F. Higgins has committed his life to serving his country and his community with passion and dedication.

Born in 1930, Mr. Higgins began his tour of duty with the U.S. Marine Corps at age 21, serving in the 1st Marine Division, 11th Regiment for three years. He was honorably discharged in 1954. Once back in the United States, Mr. Higgins earned degrees from Erie Community College, Buffalo State College, and the University at Buffalo.

Mr. Higgins went on to serve 21 years in the Buffalo Police Department, originally working as a precinct level detective before earning the rank of Lieutenant, and eventually becoming the Director of the Buffalo Police Academy. In 1997, he began his career as the Undersheriff in the Erie County Sheriff's Department. There, alongside various community organizations, he developed the "First Time/Last Time" program to reduce recidivism rates and promote educational programs through partnerships with the Sheriff's Department, City of Buffalo, and New York State Education Department to help detainees get their GED.

Mr. Higgins was elected Sheriff of Erie County in 1985, serving in that role for 12 years. As Sheriff, he established the Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation, and became the chair of the New York State Sheriffs' Association Scholarship Fund.

Sheriff Higgins' work to better Buffalo extends throughout the community. He has served as the President of the Buffalo Naval and Military Park Board of Directors, President of the Buffalo State College Alumni Association, Chairman of the Korean War Memorial Committee, and a member of the Buffalo Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations.



**THOMAS F. HIGGINS IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR TIMOTHY KENNEDY.**



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

JOSEPH MONDELLO

Born in 1955 in the Bronx, Joseph Mondello enlisted into the USAF in 1975, trained as a 30750 Telecomm Specialist, and served two years in Japan and one year in the Pentagon. He has given over 20 years of service to the Bronx community, his post, the Department of New York American Legion, and to all veterans. Mr. Mondello has held the positions of Vice-Commander, Post Commander, County Commander and various committee positions at the post, county, district and department levels.

With a background in public relations, Mr. Mondello has produced a cable TV show called "Veteran Focus," a bi-monthly, 30-minute program featuring American legionnaires from the county and beyond, discussing programs and services for veterans.

Mr. Mondello also educates local school students with a "History of our Flag" program he created. Other schools in the community learned of the program and have requested his assistance in conducting a similar presentation in their districts. In one instance, Mr. Mondello's program led to a joint project with the county POW/MIA to identify and recognize a local teacher's grandfather who was shot down over China during WWII and listed as MIA. A plaque was presented and attached to the flagpole at PS14, and the students now conduct an annual POW/MIA ceremony honoring his service.

Mr. Mondello is responsible for making his Post the 5th chapter of the "Legion Riders" in New York State and for raising more than \$5,000 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Legion Riders ride to Ground Zero, the Viet Nam Memorial in lower Manhattan, with Rolling Thunder and perform funeral escorts.

In 2017, Mr. Mondello was named "Legionnaire of the Year" by the Department of New York American Legion, a nomination from over 100,000 members.

Mr. Mondello is married to Michelle, and together they have two sons, Anthony and Joseph.



**JOSEPH MONDELLO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JEFFREY D. KLEIN.**



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

ELANA DUFFY

After graduating from Cornell University with undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering, Elana Duffy worked in civil and logic engineering briefly before deciding to enlist for active duty Army service in 2003. As both an interrogator and counterintelligence agent, she conducted multiple hostage rescue and strategic level intelligence operations, and eventually assessed into an elite clandestine unit. Unfortunately, her career was cut short when she was injured in a roadside bomb attack in Iraq. Ms. Duffy was awarded the Purple Heart medal and returned to her home in New York City upon medical retirement in December 2012.

Upon returning to New York, Ms. Duffy volunteered for local, national and international veterans' organizations including Team Rubicon, Team Red White and Blue, Mission Continues, NYC Veterans Alliance, Sierra Club Military Outdoors and multiple others. She also assisted in the creation of a New York City-based non-profit charity to raise funds for Hurricane Sandy and other disaster relief efforts. In addition, she took on multiple organizational leadership roles (several of which she still maintains) and co-founded a successful content creation and consulting firm, www.presenttensellc.com.

Intent on solving the problems of veteran reintegration and helping those suffering with depression, suicide and homelessness, in 2015, Ms. Duffy rededicated herself to engineering, founding the electronic platform www.pathfinder.vet. This online community helps veterans and families discover and connect to the best resources in their local communities through crowd-sourced peer reviews and provides analytic tools to municipalities, organizations and donors looking to increase their impact on the veteran landscape.

Ms. Duffy is an avid mountain and rock climber, dedicated social change advocate and the (very important) food provider to two old but exceedingly friendly cats.



**ELANA DUFFY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR LIZ KRUEGER.**



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

JAMES M. KENNEDY

James M. Kennedy began his service in the United States Army in April 1943. Twenty years old and married, with a newborn daughter, he was initially assigned to the Boston Port Battalion, but joined the 101st Airborne in October 1943. Mr. Kennedy was injured during a jump into German-held territory during D-Day preparations and was reassigned to the 94th Infantry Division. There, he was one of "Patton's Golden Nuggets," serving as a forward scout and demolition expert for the remainder of WWII.

Mr. Kennedy fought 195 consecutive days of combat, including the Battle of the Bulge. He was personally responsible for destroying dozens of German pillboxes and "dragon's teeth" on the Siegfried Line, allowing General Patton's tanks to break through and bring the war in Europe to an end. He served in the occupational forces until he returned to the U.S. as a Private First Class on his 23rd birthday, January 9, 1946.

Private Kennedy was awarded two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, European-American Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Medal, Marksman Medal, and the Army of Occupation Ribbon. In 2001, the U.S. and Czech Republic each awarded him a "Certificate of Recognition for Service During the Cold War," and in 2002, the French awarded him "Certificate of Recognition for the Liberation of France."

On November 9, 2012, Private Kennedy was appointed as a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

James M. Kennedy served his country with bravery, dignity and honor, but is a humble man who says he is just one of many who served.



**JAMES M. KENNEDY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR ANDREW J. LANZA.**



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

MARY E. CAVANAGH

Senior Chief Petty Officer Mary E. Cavanagh not only served her country from 1977-2000, but since retiring from the Navy, has devoted the last 18 years educating future military and academic leaders as the Naval Science Instructor for the North Rockland High School Navy Junior Reserve Training Corps.

Upon graduating from North Rockland High School in 1976, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy and commenced active duty in 1977. After completing Cryptologic Technician Collection "A" school, she reported to Naval Communication Station, Rota, Spain where she served as a Manual Morse Operator and then as a High Frequency Direction Finding Net Control Operator. Later, SCPO Cavanagh reported with the first contingent of women to be permanently assigned to Diego Garcia, and eventually served as a Senior Analyst/Report Writer.

SCPO Cavanagh's first assignment at sea was as the Leading Petty Officer and Senior Mediterranean Analyst, deployed on board the USS Puget Sound in support of operations following the bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in Beirut. Among many noteworthy assignments, SCPO Cavanagh has served in the Office of Naval Intelligence, and her final assignment was as the Non Commissioned Officer in Charge and Senior Enlisted Advisor at the Cryptologic Services Group, National Military Joint Intelligence Center at the Pentagon.

SCPO Cavanagh holds a Master's degree in Technology in Education from the New York Institute of Technology. Her list of personal decorations includes the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal with three gold stars, the Good Conduct Award with four bronze stars, Expert Rifle, Expert Pistol and various other campaign medals and ribbons. She is also authorized to wear the Joint Chiefs of Staff Badge and the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia. SCPO Cavanagh was also selected as the Rockland County Female Veteran of the Year.



**MARY E. CAVANAGH IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR WILLIAM J. LARKIN, JR.**



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

PETER CUTHBERT

Colonel Peter Cuthbert volunteered for the United States Army immediately after graduating from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in 1951. He went on to serve as a platoon leader for the U.S. Army's 89th Tank Battalion from June 1952 until March 1953 in Korea, where his unit was responsible for supporting infantry regiments on the front lines.

COL Cuthbert commanded 25 men, five tanks, a jeep and a trailer, and often shifted between infantry divisions based on demand. His battalion also spent two months serving as a support unit for a division of the Turkish Army.

Following the War, COL Cuthbert served as a "citizen soldier," commanding National Guard Armor units in Patchogue and Bay Shore, as well as an Amphibious Truck Company in Riverhead. His commitment to service did not end there. After transferring from the National Guard, COL Cuthbert worked in the Pentagon's United States Army Reserve operations office for 13 summers from when he retired as a Colonel after 32 years of service. In 1982, after eight years of writing, COL Cuthbert published his war memories in a book entitled *Korea - Our War 1950-1953*.

While he remained in an active support leadership role with the military, COL Cuthbert taught history at Westhampton Beach High School for 30 years. He coached the basketball, golf and tennis teams, and served as principal of the summer school education program. COL Cuthbert and his late wife, Nancy, raised their six children - Mary, Jane, Peter, Bill, Lynne and Lee - in Westhampton Beach. The couple eventually moved back to East Moriches.



**PETER CUTHBERT IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR KENNETH P. LAVALLE.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME

LOUIS LEVI OAKES

Louis Levi Oakes was born on the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne and is an enrolled member of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. He is one of 17 Akwesasne Mohawks to be recognized by the U.S. Congress as a Native American Code Talker.

Mr. Oakes registered at the age of 18 for the U.S. Army, and served for six years as a Technician 4th Grade with Company B's 442nd Signal Battalion. He received his training as a code talker, along with other Akwesasne Mohawks, while stationed in Louisiana.

During WWII, the Mohawk language was one of 33 Native languages used to send communications between U.S. forces. The Native American code talkers are known the world over as having the only unbroken military code in history; these messages in WWII were never interpreted by the Japanese. In 2008, Congress passed the Code Talkers Recognition Act to honor every Native American code talker who served in the United States military during WWI or WWII.

TEC 4 Oakes served as a code talker in the South Pacific, New Guinea and Philippines theatres during WWII and was awarded the Silver Star for his service. The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. TEC 4 Oakes served with distinction and received an honorable discharge on February 15, 1946.

TEC 4 Oakes worked for 30 years as an ironworker in Buffalo, New York and later for the highway department at the Mohawk territory in Akwesasne, New York before retiring.

Currently 95 years old, he is the sole-surviving Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talker to receive recognition for valor while engaged in military operations.



**LOUIS LEVI OAKES IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR ELIZABETH O'C. LITTLE.**



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

TESSIE SHIRLEY PIERCE GARBER

When the United States entered World War II, Tessie "Tess" Shirley Pierce Garber's brothers entered the U.S. Army, and Garber felt strongly that women should be able to serve in the Armed Forces as well. She was unwilling to wait until she was 21 to join the Army WACs, so she decided to join the Navy WAVES or Coast Guard SPARS, which accepted 20-year-old women. As luck would have it, she met a woman Marine recruiter and ended up in the Marine Corps.

Ms. Garber's military adventure began on November 2, 1943 when she and seven women recruits met at a Cleveland, Ohio railroad station to proceed to Marine Boot Camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Her field training with the other women recruits was the same that the men received...cleaning rifles, manual of arms, target practice, obstacle course, guard duty, marching, running with pack and rifle, scaling cargo nets and calisthenics.

After training, Ms. Garber was assigned to a Signal Corps unit in Washington, D.C. that used Teletype machines and required secret clearance. She handled daily reports listing names of wounded, missing in action (MIA), and killed in action (KIA). On occasion, she and other women were taken to Walter Reed Army Hospital to help rehabilitate those who lost hands, arms, legs and eyesight. One day at a service club, she was hit by a ping-pong ball. That was how she met Morris Garber, and six months later, they were married.

Ms. Garber has been an active member of the Jewish War Veterans Post 655 for many years.



TESSIE SHIRLEY PIERCE GARBER IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR CARL L. MARCELLINO.



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

ERIC C. WEBER

Colonel Eric C. Weber enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in 1979. For 25 years, he served in various duty assignments from aviation rotary wing test pilot to battalion and brigade staff positions, to logistics officer at Ground Zero, New York City in support of the Homeland Defense Mission in 2001.

COL Weber has commanded the more than 900 soldiers of the 369th Brigade Troops Battalion stationed in New York City, home of the "Harlem Hell Fighters." He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the Officer in Command & Charge, Strategic Operation Center, Multi-National Force Baghdad, Iraq, and as 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team 2nd Infantry Division as Combined Task Force Arrowhead, Deputy Commander (West), Operation Enduring Freedom, Kandahar, Afghanistan.

COL Weber earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from Nyack College, and is also a graduate of the Aviation Officer Rotary Wing Course and the Army Command and General Staff Officers Course.

He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit and two Bronze Stars, National Defense Medal (2nd Award), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal – w/ Campaign Star, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Armed Force Reverse Medal – w/Gold Hourglass & M device, the New York Conspicuous Service Star Service Ribbon, and Defense of Liberty Medal (World Trade Center Device) and Military Support Medal -1980 Olympics.

COL Weber retired in 2013 with over 33 years of service, of which over 29 years were active duty. He continues to be committed to his community as a certified New York State Public High School Association Soccer and Field Official, owner of First Across Timing Services, LLC, and a member of the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program. He is a lifetime member of both the Sullivan Jones VFW Post 7466 and the Army Aviation Association of American and Militia Association of New York, and a member of American Legion Post 164.



**ERIC C. WEBER IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR KATHLEEN A. MARCHIONE.**



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

DAVID ZAPSKY

David Zapsky is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, serving in the Air Force from 1989 to 1996 as a Communications and Information Security Systems Manager. He was honorably discharged with a final rank of Staff Sergeant.

In 2015, Mr. Zapsky created the Town of Bedford's Veterans Advisory Committee to help fellow veterans and their families navigate the government agencies and organizations that provide services and benefits. With the Veterans Advisory Committee, Mr. Zapsky ensures both active duty military and veterans receive the recognition and services to which they are entitled.

In addition, Mr. Zapsky serves as a Board Member of the Westchester County's Veterans Advisory Committee and on the Board of the Friends of Lasdon Park.

Mr. Zapsky works at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as a Service Performance Manager. He holds an MA and BS from Iona College, and is pursuing an MS at Columbia University. Mr. Zapsky currently resides in Bedford with his wife and twins.



**DAVID ZAPSKY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR SHELLEY MAYER.**



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

LEWIS W. MATTHEWS, SR.

Born on August 17, 1926 in Harlem, Lewis W. Matthews, Sr. has lived in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn for the past 44 years. He enlisted at age 16 (four months before his 17th birthday) in the United States Army and served from April 1943 to May 1946. Mr. Matthews trained in chemical warfare in the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee and was assigned to combat outfits in Infantry and QM+. For 18 months, he served in the South Pacific Theatre in the Philippines, New Guinea and the Isle of Biak, and was promoted to Corporal.

After receiving an Honorable Discharge in May 1946, Corporal Matthews continued his education, finishing high school and later attending New York University, where he studied Business Administration with an emphasis on Accounting Statistics, Sales Promotion and Business Management. He became a life insurance agent for United Mutual Life Insurance Company, a Licensed Notary Public and real estate broker.

In 1968, Corporal Matthews began working for the New York Urban League and Operation Open City as a Fair Housing Director in Queens and Brooklyn. Eight years later, he was made administrator of the first Energy Conservation/Weatherization Program in New York City, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. He trained 10 community groups in weatherization and energy conservation and set up the Weathco Corporation for The New York Urban League. In addition, he established Top Glass Window Company to provide the community with weatherization plans and replacement windows.

Through a contract with the New York Community Development Agency, Corporal Matthews was named Director of a program that was responsible for the removal of asbestos from hangers at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.

For three years, he served as a distributor for the New York City Summer Lunch Program.



**LEWIS W. MATTHEWS, SR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY.**



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

ARMANDO "CHICK" GALELLA

Battalion Sergeant Major Armando "Chick" Galella was born in 1921 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940. After training, he was assigned to the 443rd Signal Corps at Hickam Air Force Base and is a survivor of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

SGM Galella went on to serve five years in the Pacific Theater, earning the highest rank an enlisted man can achieve, Battalion Sergeant Major. He received the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service and bravery in the Battle of Okinawa, "the largest amphibious invasion of the Pacific campaign and the last major campaign of the Pacific War."

SGM Galella's service to our country is only equaled by his service to our local community. A lifelong resident of North Tarrytown, now Sleepy Hollow, SGM Galella has served in many civic and social capacities, including as a Village Trustee and as Deputy Mayor, Fire Commissioner for the Village, and as a member of Pocantico Hook and Ladder Company. He has also served as the Grand Marshal for the Sleepy Hollow Columbus Day Parade in 2002 and the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2018.

In 1999, SGM Galella petitioned the Village to rename a waterfront park in Sleepy Hollow to "Horan's Landing," in honor of his friend killed in the Pearl Harbor attack. John J. Horan was the first resident of the Village to be killed in WWII. An American flag and Mr. Horan's photo are now proudly displayed at the park.

At 97 years young, SGM Galella remains an active and essential member of the Sleepy Hollow community and beyond.

SGM Galella's beloved wife, Leda, passed away in September 2015 after 65 years of marriage. He has two sons, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Armando Galella is an icon and inspiration to all who meet him.



**ARMANDO GALELLA IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR TERENCE P. MURPHY.**



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

WARREN A. THOMPSON

Born on the family farm in Savona, Warren Thompson dreamed of flying airplanes as a boy and, upon the start of World War II, yearned to fly military planes.

Mr. Thompson graduated from Savona Central School in 1942, enlisted in the Army, passed the air cadet exam and started his pilot training. On August 30, 1943, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps and trained as a pilot on B26, Martin Marauders.

The Army needed A20 Douglas light bomber crews for deployment to the European Theater, so he transferred to the A20s and was assigned to the 647th Bomb Group in Gosfield, England. On his first mission on May 27, 1944, his plane was shot down over Amiens, France. He escaped capture and worked with the local Free French Forces under the assumed name of Roland Fautain, until his capture by the German military in St. Just, France on July 20, 1944.

2LT Thompson was a POW in the Paris Prison, Buchenwald Prison, Stalag Luft 3 camp, Nuremburg camp, and was finally liberated at the Mooseburg camp by General George Patton's 3rd Army.

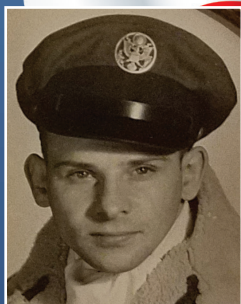
Upon honorable discharge on March 10, 1950, he returned to the family farm in Savona which he successfully grew by acquiring over 20 additional farms and parcels and which remains a working farm today under his son, Gary, as Thompson Farms. 2LT Thompson's work ethic, determination, and honesty are legendary. For nearly four decades, in addition to farming, he served as rural postal carrier.

2LT Thompson also gave back to his community in many ways, including as a Savona school board member and President, Commander of VFW Post 1470, member of the Bath Planning Board, member and sponsor of the Savona Fire Department, and President of the Steuben County Veteran's Memorial.

Warren A. Thompson is a proud representative of the "Greatest Generation." He will celebrate his 94th birthday on June 20, 2018.



**WARREN A. THOMPSON IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR THOMAS F. O'MARA.**



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

ALLEN WANDERLICH

Allen Wanderlich fought in two wars in two uniforms, serving in both WW II and Korea. He fought in the Battle of Bulge, and then participated in other battles with the 84th Infantry Division, K Company, also known as the "Railsplitters."

In one battle, as Mr. Wanderlich and his comrades charged deeper into enemy territory, a bullet went through his right leg, but he continued on in combat. After taking Hanover, he helped to liberate both POW and concentration camps. With about two weeks left before the war ended, German troops opened fire with machine guns and artillery. Twenty-two of Mr. Wanderlich's comrades and his company commander were killed. Using his 60 mm mortar, he was able to distract the Germans who took cover every time he sent a shell their way, allowing his riflemen and machine gunners to move forward. The strategic use of his mortar earned Allen Wanderlich, who was only 19 years old at the time, a Silver Star. He also earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and numerous other medals during the course of and in recognition of his service.

In 1949, Mr. Wanderlich enlisted in the Air Force and was assigned to a B-29 bomber squadron as a Radar Specialist, flying missions over North Korea and serving until 1953. Memories of both wars are never distant.

Following his military career, Mr. Wanderlich earned an electrical engineering degree from the University at Buffalo. Before retiring in the 1980s from the TV repair shop he owned and operated, he worked at the former Wurlitzer plant in North Tonawanda, and then at the Sylvania television factory in Batavia.

Mr. Wanderlich lives in Lockport with his wife of 63 years, Maryann. Together, they raised four children.



**ALLEN WANDERLICH IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR ROBERT G. ORT.**



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

RHEYSER HENRY

Rheyser Henry describes herself as someone who is humble and passionate about serving her community. The oldest of five, Ms. Henry has always been family oriented and has exhibited leadership skills at a young age. In 2012, after graduating from St. Joseph High School, she decided to join the United States Navy. Ms. Henry did two tours while in service: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Ms. Henry is well traveled and has visited many countries, including Israel, Greece, Dubai, Bahrain, Oman, Turkey and France. In 2017, she decided to leave the Navy to further her education and return to her Brooklyn community. There, Ms. Henry enjoys painting abstract art and creating portraits and figure art. She developed her love for art as a young child, but never imagined her passion growing into what it is today.

Ms. Henry currently works as an intern for State Senator Kevin Parker, an opportunity she secured through the non-profit, Opportunity for A Better Tomorrow. She is actively working on her entrepreneurship goals and is looking forward to attending Baruch College in Fall 2018.



**RHEYSER HENRY IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR KEVIN S. PARKER.**



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

ALIRIO ORDUÑA (POSTHUMOUSLY)

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Alirio Orduña of Elmhurst was a longtime member of Community Board 4 and the beloved Commander of the New York Military Youth Cadets. He passed away on October 30, 2017 at the age of 65.

Born in 1952 and raised in Colombia, Mr. Orduña was 16 when he emigrated to the United States with his siblings following the death of his parents. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1972, eventually rising to the rank of corporal and earning numerous medals along the way.

In 2000, CPL Orduña founded the New York Military Youth Cadets, an Elmhurst-based organization aimed at directing disadvantaged children away from crime and toward higher education and service to one's community and country. In the nearly two decades since, dozens of young cadets either went to college on full academic scholarships or enlisted in the military. CPL Orduña's work with the NYMYC has earned him various honors from the federal, state and city governments and cultural groups.

CPL Orduña was also one of CB4's more vocal members. Over the years, he repeatedly pressed the 110th Precinct and area elected officials to better address prostitution and illegal dumping in Elmhurst and Corona.

His support for the children of the community and families was unprecedented and words cannot describe how he has truly impacted the Village of Elmhurst and beyond. Nothing will ever match his larger-than-life legacy.



**ALIRIO ORDUÑA IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOSÉ PERALTA.**



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

MARLENE DIETRICH HEATH

Marlene Dietrich Heath is an accomplished executive level human resources and healthcare administrator, offering 25 years of experience in both the military and civilian arenas. In March 1993, Ms. Heath enlisted in the Air Force Reserves as a Mental Health Specialist, and by June 2000, she was commissioned in the Medical Service Corps (MSC) as a Second Lieutenant. In April 2003, Ms. Heath received training as Personnel Officer. She is currently a Major in the New Jersey Air National Guard.

Over the years, Major Heath has proven her unwavering passion for taking organizations to the next level of success while resolving organizational deficiencies. She has earned the reputation as a driven executive, undaunted by challenges or obstacles. Major Heath's experience, personality, capacity and judgment always get her the desired results.

Major Heath served as the Head of Human Resources for Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC) in Brooklyn. She has also served as Regional HR District Manager for Rite Aid, and Human Resource Business Partner for the NYC Department of Education. Major Heath holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and an MBA in Business Administration. She is also a trained mediator through the Atlanta Justice Center.

Major Heath has been very actively involved with both community service projects and community partnerships. She currently serves as the Co-Chair for Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ), on the Council for the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center and as a member of the African American Clergy Elected Officials Coalition (AACEO).



**MARLENE DIETRICH HEATH IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD.**



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

RALPH ESPOSITO

Ralph Esposito of Floral Park Crest exemplifies what it means to be a true American patriot. Mr. Esposito enlisted in the United States Navy in 1961 and served on the USS Ticonderoga CVA 14, Division V4. He has remained an active member of the American Legion since his honorable discharge in 1964, making him a 53-year member. He has also been a member of the VFW for 44 years.

Mr. Esposito has been recognized by the Nassau County Legislature as “Legionnaire of the Year” in 2009 and 2010 for his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of his fellow veterans. He was also named “Elmont Person of the Year” in 2006, not only for the lengths he goes to for former military servicemen and women, but for his sacrifice and service as a 43-year first responder and Commissioner of the Elmont Fire Department.

Mr. Esposito has received the “Kind Person Who Cares” Award from the United States Marine Corps for his work in the renowned Toys for Tots donation drive, the “Humanitarian of the Year” Award by the Thomas A. Bennet Foundation, and the “Honorable Community Service” Award from the Gateway Christian Center.

As Director of the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency (VSA), Mr. Esposito works tirelessly to empower, educate and provide necessary services to veterans within and beyond the boundaries of Nassau County. He goes above and beyond to ensure that every veteran who comes to the VSA seeking guidance receives the benefits they deserve, and has singlehandedly been a reliable resource to countless veterans and their loved ones during their time of need.

Mr. Esposito has been married to his wife, Joanna, for 46 years and is the proud father of two sons, John and Michael, and four grandchildren.



**RALPH ESPOSITO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR ELAINE PHILLIPS.**



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

**PATRICK J. CUNNINGHAM
(POSTHUMOUSLY)**

Col. Patrick J. Cunningham served in the U.S. Army for three decades. His distinguished military career encompassed serving in the Vietnam War, as well as several positions at the Pentagon, including overseeing the Army Budget, assignments at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Bliss, Ft. Leavenworth, and across the globe, from Korea to Worms, Germany and Orleans, France. Col. Cunningham received numerous awards for his military service, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Col. Cunningham retired as a Colonel from Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indiana where he served in the post of Chief of Staff. In 1989, he and his wife, Sheila, moved back home to Buffalo to be closer to family. Col. Cunningham started his second career as Executive Director at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park. Under his leadership, he improved the visitor experience and increased attendance.

In addition to being dedicated to his career, Col. Cunningham was an active volunteer in the American Society of Military Comptrollers, Military Officers' Association of America and Boy Scouts. He was also a proud referee for high school football and basketball games, as well as an umpire for little league baseball.

Col. Cunningham graduated from Canisius College in 1959 with a degree in sociology and a commission in the Army. He earned his MBA from Syracuse University.

Col. Cunningham passed away in March 2017 from a respiratory illness, due in part to his exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. He is survived by five children and 14 grandchildren. He dedicated his entire life to the service of his country and family, offering the best of himself, the gift of his example, and a legacy of service and integrity.



**PATRICK J. CUNNINGHAM (POSTHUMOUSLY) IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR MICHAEL H. RANZENHOFER.**



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

JOSEPH H. BRADY AND FRANCIS M. "FRANK" LA DUC

Joseph H. Brady and Francis M. "Frank" La Duc are both members of the Greatest Generation. They are both World War II veterans who fought in Europe and have strong ties to Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division.

Mr. Brady and Mr. La Duc both live in Carthage, and in 2015, traveled as part of a Syracuse Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorials at the nation's capital. Mr. Brady, 89, fought in the historic Battle of Bulge, serving in the U.S. Army's 8th Infantry Division from May 1944 until June 1946. As a teenager, he had a summer job washing vehicles in the Army motor pool at Camp Drum, the military training facility that would become Fort Drum in 1974. He was drafted into the Army on his 18th birthday, the youngest soldier in his unit, H Company of the 121st Regiment. His unit safely crossed the Rhine River at the Remagen Bridge. Three days later, the bridge collapsed after weeks of attacks by the Germans.

Mr. La Duc, 91, served in the original 10th Mountain Division with E Company as part of the 86th Regiment that fought in the Apennine Mountains in northern Italy and valiantly took control of Mount Belvedere from the Germans during intense combat. As a 19-year-old in 1943, he had volunteered to serve in this elite mountain force that was formed that year as an alpine division, and where troops learned to ski, rock climb and perform all other aspects of mountain warfare. Today, the 10th is the most deployed military unit in the U.S. After the war in Europe ended, Mr. La Duc's outfit was selected to be part of the force to invade Japan, but before they could be sent to the Pacific, the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb.

These two brave men exemplify the qualities of integrity, character and service. We are honored to call them American heroes.



**JOSEPH H. BRADY AND FRANCIS M. "FRANK" LA DUC ARE
NAMED TO THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE.**



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

CLAUDE S. COPELAND, JR.

Claude S. Copeland, Jr. is originally from Queens, but has chosen to make the borough of the Bronx his home.

Mr. Copeland served as a Specialist for the United States Army for seven and one-half years, from May 2001 to November 2008. In 2003, he was deployed to Iraq for almost a year. During his service, he received the Army Achievement Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Copeland found his purpose in social justice work after joining New Day United Methodist Church in the Bronx. New Day allowed him to develop a strong spiritual foundation, which he utilizes as a tool in helping the diverse community he serves. He is a staunch advocate and focuses his efforts on fighting for oppressed individuals within his community and abroad. Mr. Copeland is currently a community organizer with the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, where he serves as the Climate Justice and Energy Democracy Organizer.

In addition, Mr. Copeland is an active member of About Face, a progressive-thinking group that organizes veterans around various issues affecting local and neighboring communities. As a member of About Face, he helped organize hundreds of veteran members to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and others aligned against the interstate pipeline.

On a local level, he worked vigorously with the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Association in successfully securing a Community Benefits Agreement for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory into the country's largest ice-skating complex.

Mr. Copeland selflessly dedicates his time to participate in an array of community organizations to improve access and opportunities in underserved communities.



**CLAUDE S. COPELAND, JR. IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR GUSTAVO RIVERA.**



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

HECTOR F. ALVARADO

Colonel Hector F. Alvarado was born and raised in a small village in the mountains of Cayey, Puerto Rico. After graduating from high school, he began his career as a public servant by joining the Puerto State Police as a Cadet. At the age of 19, he became the youngest law enforcement officer in the Department. In 1974, Colonel Alvarado was promoted to the rank of Sergeant

Education has also been very important to Colonel Alvarado. He graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College and earned a Master's degree in Education from American InterContinental University. He also attended and earned degrees in related fields from the University of Puerto Rico and the FBI National Academy.

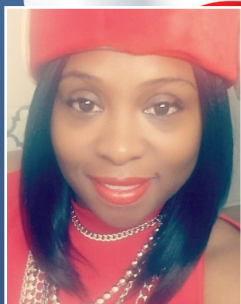
Aside from his impressive educational achievements, Colonel Alvarado has honorably served our country in several military capacities. He proudly served in the U.S. Army Active Duty, the National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves, and also served in the Multinational Security Transition Command in Iraq in the Global War on Terrorism during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Colonel Alvarado's services in Iraq were highly commended by General Casey, General David H. Petraeus, and the Minister of Interior. In 2006, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) awarded Colonel Alvarado the "Excellence in Military Service Award."

In recognition of his service and dedication to his country and community, Colonel Alvarado has received 18 awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Combat Action Badge and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Colonel Alvarado volunteers with many local veterans organizations and also works as a Probation Officer for Monroe County. He and his wife, Helen, have been married for over 35 years and have one child together.



**HECTOR F. ALVARADO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JOSEPH E. ROBACH.**



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

LAKIA T. ECHOLS

“Act as though it’s impossible to fail” is the motto that Sergeant Lakia Echols not only lives by, but values.

Sergeant Echols, a 17-year veteran serving with the United States Army, is the founder of MakeMyMotherProud, which provides a range of support services to at-risk youth. She is also the Director of The Child Center of NY Redfern in Far Rockaway, as well as a single mother, motivational speaker, leadership teacher, and highly motivated community leader. Ms. Echols earned a Bachelor’s degree in Organizing Management from St. Joseph’s College and is currently pursuing her Master’s degree at St. John’s University.

While deployed in Kuwait from 2004-2006, Sergeant Echols was involved in community development. After serving for two years, she finally discovered her passion – giving back to her community. As the Director of a Cornerstone in one of the most dangerous housing developments in Far Rockaway, Sergeant Echols utilized her military background to encourage the youth that are lost in life to join the service. She has helped several young men and women get off the streets to pursue a career with the service or at educational institutions.

Sergeant Echols also stepped forward when Hurricane Sandy struck, quickly mobilizing assistance for community residents who could not reach a distribution center and bringing food and materials directly to them. She also helped raise \$20,000 from private companies that went directly to families affected by the storm.

Sergeant Echols gives selflessly to her community and started several annual events such as the Cinderella Ball Adult Prom, Santa Sleigh Run, Stack Bundles Stop the Violence Basketball Tournament, and Women’s Softball League and Empowerment Group.



LAKIA T. ECHOLS IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS’ HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JAMES SANDERS JR.



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

JOHN N. SOLLAZZO

After serving as the Leading Seaman of the First Division of the USS Intrepid, and as a firefighter for 20 years at Staten Island's Engine Company 160, John N. Sollazzo has dedicated his adult life working hard to better the entire community of Staten Island. Mr. Sollazzo left the Navy to marry his lifelong sweetheart, Frances, and went on to become a staple in the borough.

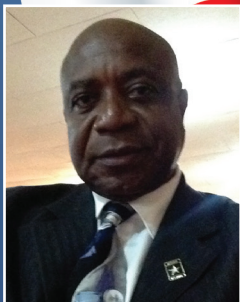
Mr. Sollazzo has gone above and beyond the call of duty for the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY), even after retirement. He is now the current resident of various fire department retiree organizations that give back to the community tremendously.

Mr. Sollazzo has been a former executive board member for non-profits such as "Meals on Wheels" and "Youth Against Crime," all on Staten Island. His accomplishments and civil service to the borough of Richmond County and his country as a whole know no limits. He is a man of high honor and rapport among his community. Much of Mr. Sollazzo's work and dedication in his later years is credited to his time serving as a leading seaman aboard the Intrepid.

John Sollazzo has been making an impact on Staten Island for decades through his selfless dedication to the community as well as his strong leadership roles in politics. He is often regarded as "Mr. Democrat" — a nickname that will live with him forever. Mr. Sollazzo has worked tirelessly on and across the island for all individuals.



**JOHN N. SOLLAZZO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR DIANE J. SAVINO.**



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
VETERANS'
HALL OF FAME

ROBERTO CLOTTER

Sergeant First Class Roberto Clotter was born on June 18, 1953 in Puerto Cortes, Honduras and attended Reginald H. Hammer and Franklin D. Roosevelt schools there.

SFC Clotter served in the Honduran Army from 1971 to 1973 before migrating to the United States in July 1973, when he attended classes and dedicated himself to learning the English language.

In March 1977, SFC Clotter joined the United States Army. Throughout his military career, he served the country in a broad array of assignments and completed training in the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), also formerly known as the Warrior Leader Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNO), and the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANOC). In addition, he obtained an Associate's degree in Administration.

Among other recognitions and awards, SFC Clotter is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal. He retired from service on April 1, 1997. From 1998 to 2004, he worked for the New York Life Insurance Company as a sales representative. He serves his community working with local youth to keep them off the street.

SFC is the proud father of six children and one grandchild.



**ROBERTO CLOTTER IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR LUIS R. SEPÚLVEDA.**



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

JOHN MARTINKO

John Martinko was born on December 12, 1945 in Poughkeepsie to John and Margaret Martinko. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as an Infantryman after graduating from Poughkeepsie High School in 1964. After completing basic training in Fort Dix, New Jersey and advanced infantry training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he was assigned to the 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhounds" of the 25th Infantry Division "Tropic Lightning."

Mr. Martinko deployed to Vietnam in January 1966. In November of that year, then a squad leader in 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, he participated in Operation Attleboro. On November 3, 1966, Mr. Martinko was leading his squad on a UH-1 "Huey" air assault insertion for a search and destroy mission during the Battle of Dau Tieng. He sustained injuries by hostile enemy forces when he was hit by gunfire and sustained burns. Mr. Martinko was medevacked and recovered at the MASH station in Cu Chi. He attained the rank of Sergeant (E-5), left Vietnam on December 24, 1966 and received an honorable discharge in August 1967. Sgt. Martinko is the recipient of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, two Air Medals, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Sgt. Martinko returned to Poughkeepsie, where he graduated from Dutchess Community College and SUNY New Paltz. He served the United States Postal Service, where he delivered mail to the Poughkeepsie community for 30 years. Sgt. Martinko also officiated high school and recreational sports for Dutchess County until he retired from the Post Office in 1997.

Sgt. Martinko is a member of the Vail-Wolff McKenna-Frye Post 170 VFW in Poughkeepsie, and the Disabled American Veterans.

He and his wife, Sabina, have four grown children and 15 grandchildren.



**JOHN MARTINKO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR SUE SERINO.**



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

THOMAS A. MCMILLEN

Thomas A. McMillen of Morris, proudly served our nation in the United States Army on active duty from 1967 to 1973, completing two tours in Vietnam. During his wartime service, he ascended to the rank of Captain and demonstrated his versatility and expertise first as an infantry platoon commander and later as a Chinook helicopter pilot.

During his first tour in Vietnam, CPT. McMillen commanded the 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Infantry Division, also known as "Big Red One." He and his platoon fully engaged with the enemy on three occasions during search and destroy operations. Despite the hardships, all 25 men under his command survived their six months in the bush.

After rotating back to the U.S., CPT. McMillen returned to Vietnam in August 1970 as a Chinook pilot in the 242 Assault Support Helicopter Company. Over the next year, he logged 973 combat flying hours, taking on small arms fire on numerous occasions, but always returning safely.

Following his active duty service, CPT. McMillen served in the Army National Guard, retiring in 2001 as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. In retirement, he continues to demonstrate his devotion to his country and his fellow soldiers. CPT. McMillen belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is a member of the Vietnam Veterans Helicopter Association and gives group presentations about his experiences.

CPT. McMillen is proud to have received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 6 Campaign Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with '60 Device, Bronze Star Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Aviator Badge, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, four Overseas Service Bars, and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

CPT. Thomas A. McMillen is a strong, compassionate leader who could adapt to any situation and utilize his God-given abilities to the fullest extent to defend our rights, protect his fellow soldiers, and proudly represent the United States of America.



**THOMAS A. MCMILLEN IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JAMES L. SEWARD.**



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

RICHARD PECCI

Specialist 4th Class Richard "Richie" Pecci was born on May 24, 1946 in Queens. At 18, he received his draft card and was called up a year later, in 1965, to start his training.

SPC Pecci excelled at basic training, achieving a near-perfect score of 598 out of 600. He was chosen for a new unit called the Delta Troop 3/17th Air Cavalry. This highly specialized unit combined both air and ground troops for more efficient enemy search and destroy missions. SPC Pecci completed his training at Fort Knox, and in 1967, he was deployed to Vietnam. Landing at the port city of Qui Nhon, just south of Saigon, SPC Pecci began his 11-month deployment as a sharpshooter.

The Air Cavalry's primary mission was to search, destroy and provide convoy protection. Due to his expert skills, SPC Pecci would be often assigned to solo missions on the ground in war zones, alone, sometimes for multiple days at a time. During his deployment, SPC Pecci was often under fire, including a mortar attack, which resulted in some hearing loss and damage to his eardrum. In recognition of his service, SPC Pecci was awarded a Citation for the TET Offensive.

After completion of his service and formal discharge, SPC Pecci realized the importance of having a community for veterans to come home to. He participates in the Memorial Day Parade every year in Hastings-on-Hudson, where he and his wife, Linda, are longtime residents. He has also coordinated memorials in the Village, most recently the designation of Hastings-on-Hudson as a Purple Heart Village.

SPC Pecci currently serves as the Commander of the American Legion in Hastings and is retired from the *New York Times*, where he worked for over 35 years.



**RICHARD PECCI IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS.**



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

DANIEL IZZO

Master Chief Petty Officer Daniel Izzo of Mayfield is a retired U.S. Navy SEAL who served our country with honor for 28 years.

As an elite Navy SEAL, MCPO Izzo completed a dozen major deployments to many countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Liberia. He has earned over 45 combined service awards, most notably two Bronze Star Medals, one with the combat "V" distinction for valor and three separate Combat Action Awards.

MCPO Izzo was one of just 22 Navy SEALs selected to participate in a pilot program on how the SEALs would fight the Global War on Terror, particularly in countries with a strong Al-Qaeda presence. Many of his missions remain highly classified today.

During a combat deployment in Afghanistan, MCPO Izzo's team came under rocket fire attack. With total disregard for his own safety, he manned an MK-19 grenade launcher and returned fire, single-handedly stopping the attack and saving the lives of numerous coalition members. For his courage and selflessness, MCPO Izzo received the Bronze Star.

MCPO Izzo was awarded a second Bronze Star while leading a 236-man Navy SEAL counter insurgency unit in Northern Iraq on a 23-day-long combat operation where his team removed 36 enemy insurgents from the battlefield.

In 1996, MCPO Izzo helped recover the remains of 34 passengers, including U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, when their aircraft crashed into a mountainside in Croatia. His team also safely evacuated American personnel and their families from the American Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia while under continuous exposure from rebels to small arms gunfire and rocket propelled grenades.

MCPO Izzo was selected as the 1999 Navy SEAL of the Year. He currently serves as the Undersheriff for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office.



**DANIEL IZZO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR JAMES N. TEDISCO.**



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

STEPHEN M. KINNE, MD (RET.)

Dr. Stephen Kinne is a graduate of the College of Environmental Science/Forestry and Upstate Medical School. He served 23 years in the United States Air Force as a clinician, medical staff chief, medical commander, and medical residency director. Dr. Kinne deployed to multiple areas of the world, including Southwest Asia following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The recipient of five meritorious service medals and a prestigious Legion of Merit medal, he retired from both the Air Force and medicine in 2006.

Following retirement, Dr. Kinne involved himself in community volunteer work with the Chittenango Lions Club, Wanderer's Rest animal shelter, Madison County Search and Rescue, and in various leadership roles for the Central New York Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. He also founded Dogs2Vets, a unique program that teaches vets with PTSD how to train their own service dogs. That effort subsequently grew into Clear Path for Veterans, a nonprofit organization serving Central New York veterans and families.

Dr. Kinne was a regular guest speaker at the Syracuse VA Chronic Pain School, and more recently, he trained to become a volunteer Master Naturalist, now teaching courses in birding for the Onondaga Audubon Society. There he leads bird and nature walks, collects environmental data for Cornell University researchers, volunteers at a wetlands conservancy, does invasive pest surveys for the NYS Hemlock Initiative, and is an active member of the New York Forest Owners Association.

Most importantly, Dr. Kinne says, he has been very happily married for 40 years to his very supportive wife, Ann. They have two grown children, Carrie-Ann (a high school teacher) and Jeremy (a USAF Major), and five wonderful grandchildren.



**STEPHEN M. KINNE, MD (RET.) IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR DAVID J. VALESKY.**



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

PETER CARLO

Peter Carlo served bravely in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954 during the Korean War. A machine gunner with Company C, First Battalion, Ninth Infantry Regiment, Second Infantry Division, he fought in five major battles during his service. Mr. Carlo was also in the front line during the signing of the truce to end the Korean War.

Mr. Carlo was severely wounded in his legs and back while serving on the front line in Inchon, Korea. He has 97 pieces of shrapnel in his body that were too deeply embedded to remove. Following treatment in an Army hospital, Mr. Carlo returned to the front line rather than being sent home.

Mr. Carlo left the Army as a Corporal. Due to his dedication and courage, he received numerous medals and commendations for his service, including the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Following the War, Mr. Carlo returned to the Jamestown area to work in his family's fruit market, which he inherited and grew from one store to six. He and his wife, Mary Ann, raised three children, a boy and two girls.

A patriot to the core, Mr. Carlo has made it his mission to donate American flags to schools, fire departments, nonprofits and community organizations around the Jamestown area in support of America and its veterans who served the United States in its times of need. All the flags he donates have been flown over the U.S. Capitol; he has presented more than 300 flags.

Mr. Carlo has always volunteered to support others and his larger community. He is the past Commander of the Disabled American Veterans and a member of AMVETS, and served as Chair of the Handicapped Boy Scouts of New York State for five years.



**PETER CARLO IS NAMED TO
THE NEW YORK STATE VETERANS' HALL OF FAME
BY SENATOR CATHARINE M. YOUNG.**



Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future

By Elizabeth Claire Palmer

It is a blustery fall day, the air cool and crisp, the otherwise desolate city landscape punctuated by the occasional splash of vibrant foliage. I sit in the passenger seat of the car, the effervescent autumn light filtering across my lap through the open window. As the car comes to a rest before a red light, I catch a glimpse of the vehicle in front of me. An old station wagon, the paint chipped liberally and covered in rust, the bumper is adorned with three weather-worn stickers. The first, barely visible through years of wear, states that the driver had valiantly served in Vietnam. The second, less dilapidated adhesive establishes that he is also the proud parent of a Marine. The third one succinctly proclaims, "If you love your freedom, thank a veteran."

A profound statement...a catalyst for thought.

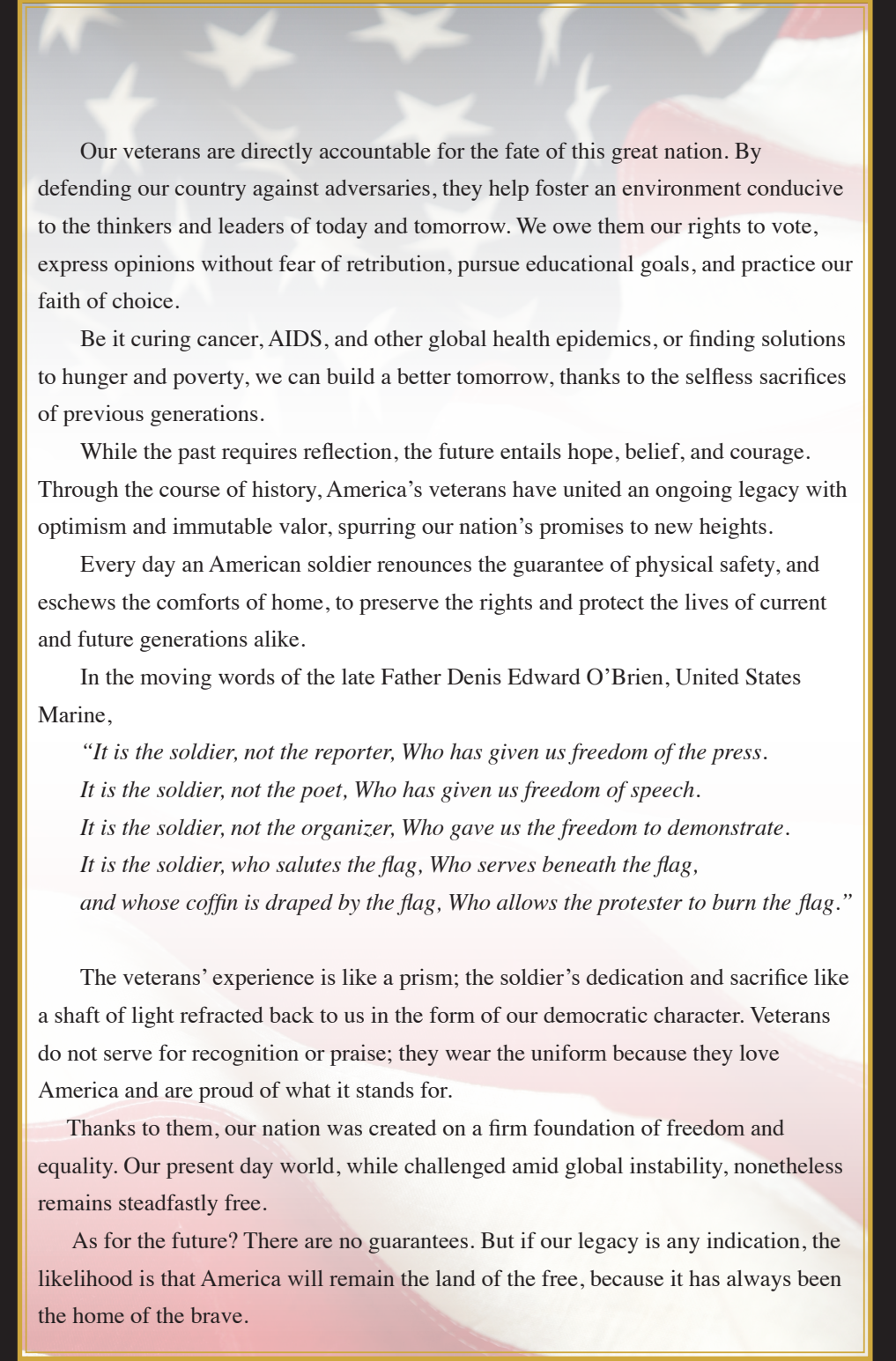
If not for America's veterans, we all would be living a vastly different reality. For over two centuries, our veterans have fought tirelessly to protect and preserve the democratic ideals upon which our nation was founded.

William Shakespeare once mused, "What is past is prologue."

That statement is echoed through the many incarnations of America previous decades have seen. As aptly expressed by those patriotic bumper stickers, one era of veterans protects our liberty and passes the torch of service to succeeding generations.

From the young marine in Normandy to the tanker in Kuwait, the ensign at Leyte Gulf to the transport pilot at Khe Sanh, veterans have unfailingly defended our honor, meeting every crisis with poise and perseverance. As the Air Force motto declares, "The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer."

Veterans are the authors of our past, the defenders of our present, and the architects of our future. They serve both for those that they hold dear to their hearts, and for those that they have never met. It is a testament to our republic that, according to a national poll, 89 percent of the 2.5 million Iraqi and Afghani veterans would willingly serve again.



Our veterans are directly accountable for the fate of this great nation. By defending our country against adversaries, they help foster an environment conducive to the thinkers and leaders of today and tomorrow. We owe them our rights to vote, express opinions without fear of retribution, pursue educational goals, and practice our faith of choice.

Be it curing cancer, AIDS, and other global health epidemics, or finding solutions to hunger and poverty, we can build a better tomorrow, thanks to the selfless sacrifices of previous generations.

While the past requires reflection, the future entails hope, belief, and courage. Through the course of history, America's veterans have united an ongoing legacy with optimism and immutable valor, spurring our nation's promises to new heights.

Every day an American soldier renounces the guarantee of physical safety, and eschews the comforts of home, to preserve the rights and protect the lives of current and future generations alike.

In the moving words of the late Father Denis Edward O'Brien, United States Marine,

*"It is the soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the organizer, Who gave us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag, Who allows the protester to burn the flag."*

The veterans' experience is like a prism; the soldier's dedication and sacrifice like a shaft of light refracted back to us in the form of our democratic character. Veterans do not serve for recognition or praise; they wear the uniform because they love America and are proud of what it stands for.

Thanks to them, our nation was created on a firm foundation of freedom and equality. Our present day world, while challenged amid global instability, nonetheless remains steadfastly free.

As for the future? There are no guarantees. But if our legacy is any indication, the likelihood is that America will remain the land of the free, because it has always been the home of the brave.