

Weekly Wrap: Homeland Security, Green Light Law, Loving our Libraries, Presenting the Flag, Meet the Legislators & MORE!

Friday, February 28, 2020



Dear Friend:

Welcome to my Weekly Wrap for Friday, February 28. The past week has been especially busy in terms of Session, a homeland security briefing, visits with my constituents and community groups, and continued budget deliberations as we head toward the state's April 1 fiscal deadline. I touch on each of these topics and more in this latest edition of my Weekly Wrap. Have a terrific weekend, spring will be here before we know it!

– **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Fix NY's Broken Budget Process

The State of Politics blog recently featured an article by Nick Reisman regarding the Governor seeking to “reframe” the State Budget and include non-budgetary measures like bail “reform” in the annual spending plan. This is entirely the wrong approach and why we need to fix NY's broken budget process. As I've said previously – and will continue saying – the State Budget is the legal authority for the state government to spend money, period! The budget is for appropriations and

should not be mixed with legislation needing review and input from taxpayers, and vigorous debate and oversight by legislators. Non-budgetary matters shouldn't be in the State Budget in the first place – they should be considered as stand-alone legislation. Let's focus on New York's massive \$6.2 billion deficit and getting the state's finances in order, and stop trying to make policy through the budget. You can read the full story on the State of Politics blog by clicking here:

<https://tinyurl.com/scc3t5l>.

Fire Installation Banquet





Our heroic first responders were proudly front-and-center during Saturday's 2020 Installation Banquet in Troy that featured the Castleton Volunteer Ambulance Service Inc., Castleton Volunteer Fire Department, and East Schodack Fire Company. Peter Gemellaro from my office represented me at the terrific community event that showcased and celebrated our heroic first responders. He also presented NYS Senate Certificates on my behalf to the installed officers.

Congratulations to everyone, we appreciate your service, professionalism, and dedication!

Department of Homeland Security Briefing





On Monday, I received a policy briefing from Congressman Tom Reed and representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on New York's Green Light Law – and how this bad law takes our state back to a dangerous, pre-9/11 mentality. It was emphasized throughout the briefing that a DMV check is one of the very first steps taken by border and immigration enforcement when interacting with an individual and that such a check often yields critical information regarding anti-terrorism, counter-narcotics, transnational organized crime, and the horrific human trafficking of children. Congressman Reed and DHS officials reiterated the point that NY's Green Light Law prevents the sharing of NYS DMV info with Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, (a point I made during my Senate debate with the Green Light sponsor and continually voicing my opposition to the Green Light Law). By withholding this critical information, the Green Light Law endangers the safety of the men and women serving on the front lines of keeping our country safe – as well as jeopardizing our national security. My thanks to Congressman Reed, and Directors Kelly and Brophy (all pictured above) for their informative briefing. I proudly stand with law enforcement and remain committed to the complete repeal of the atrocious Green Light Law. We also must require the NYS DMV to stop playing politics and share its information with law enforcement!

Calling for NYS DMV to Help Protect our Borders



Also on Monday, I stood beside Congressman Tom Reed and my Senate and Assembly Republican colleagues (we are pictured above) in our common sense call for the repeal of NY's dangerous Green Light Law. We also called on the NYS DMV to work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure the safety and security of the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Immigration And Customs Enforcement (ICE), and all Americans.

Meeting with Library Advocates





Tuesday was “Library Day” as I met Mid-Hudson Library System, Upper Hudson Library System, and Southern Adirondack Library System members (pictured above). The members visited my Albany office advocating for funding of our excellent public libraries. As a long-time supporter of libraries, former Trustee, Member of the Executive Committee, Treasurer for the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, and a current Director on the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Foundation, I proudly stand with these vital institutions of learning and literacy that add so much to our communities and enrich our quality of life.

Calling for Repeal of NY’s Green Light Law

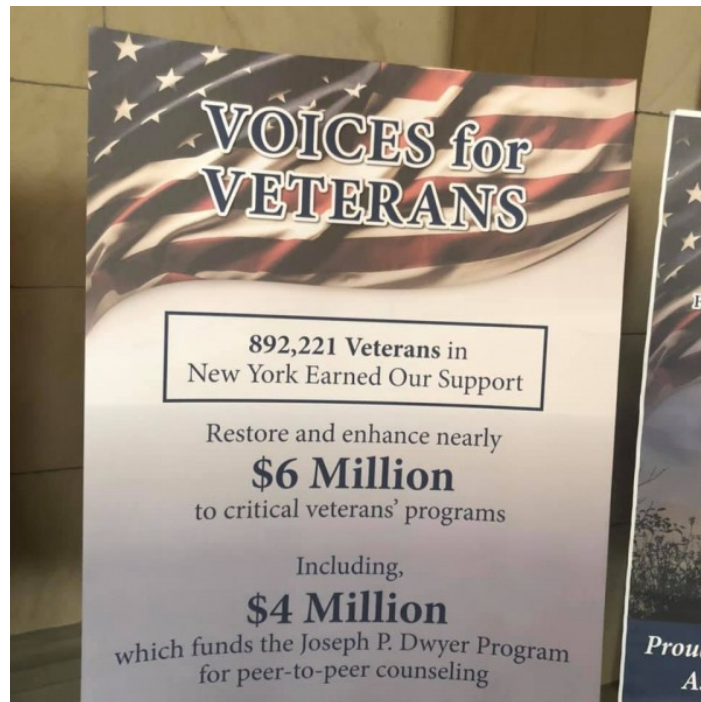


Additionally, on Tuesday, my Senate Republican colleagues and I held a press conference calling for the repeal of NY's disastrous Green Light Law that gives drivers licenses to illegal immigrants. As noted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, this reckless law endangers the safety and security of not only our borders but also the men and women who swore an oath to protect them.

Advocating for Veteran's Program Funding







Tuesday featured a press conference led by my good friend, Assemblyman Jake Ashby, and included Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency Director Peter Goebel, Columbia County Veterans Service Agency Director Gary Flaherty, Emil Baker of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Capital Region veterans and veteran's advocates, calling for proper investment in the proven programs that help our heroes. I specifically advocate for the restoration of \$3.7 million for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer-to-Peer Program in the 2020-21 State Budget. It's shameful that veterans have to come to the State Capitol and advocate for proven, life-saving initiatives like the Dwyer Program, while Albany seemingly has no problem finding \$27 million for the DREAM Act to give free

college for illegal immigrants. Where are Albany's priorities? Meeting the needs of our veterans – our heroes – will always be my priority!

Advancing an Amendment to Repeal the Green Light Law



After September 11, everyone agreed that local, state and federal law enforcement needed better cooperation and coordination. Here in New York, the site of the worst terror attacks in our history, Senate Democrats ignored this lesson and passed the so-called Green Light Law giving licenses to illegal immigrants and blocking information that could thwart future terrorist attacks from being released to federal authorities. Because of Senate Democrats, our public safety has taken a

backseat to a radical, extreme political agenda. It's time to put the brakes on the Green Light law and support a full repeal of this misguided initiative. That's why on Tuesday, my Senate Republican colleagues and I advanced an amendment to repeal the Green Light Law. While we were unsuccessful in enacting our amendment, I'll keep fighting to get this bad law off the books.

Saratoga County Honors U.S. Army Veteran Charles Drew Sr.





On Tuesday, Saratoga County's Honor a Deceased Veteran Ceremony recognized the faithful, patriotic service of U.S. Army Veteran Charles Drew Sr. Charles Drew entered the U.S. Army on October 15, 1940, as part of Company L, 105th Infantry Regiment, and was later assigned to the 27th Infantry Division and served in the Pacific Theater. In addition to serving in the infantry, he also served as a bugler. After the war, Charles worked for the Village of Schuylerville as a machine equipment operator and served as Superintendent of the Public Works Department. He was also a member and Past Chief of the Schuylerville Fire Department, serving for over 50 years. In addition, Charles was an active member of the American Legion Old Saratoga Post 278. Charles was married to the late Nellie Wilcox and passed away on March 20, 1995. He is survived by his son, three stepsons, and three stepdaughters. We remember and salute the honorable military service of Charles Drew Sr.

Attending the American Legion's Legislative Breakfast







Tuesday also was the American Legion's Legislative Breakfast held at the Desmond Hotel. Department Commander Michael McDermott hosted this terrific event. I was honored to be seated with Legionnaires from my 43rd Senate district and discuss legislation concerning the American Legion and war veterans, as well as issues affecting our active-duty military personnel and their families. I'm pictured above with Columbia County Veteran Jeff French, Vice Chairman of the Oratorical Committee Department of NY. Peter Goebel, Director of the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency and Assemblyman Jake Ashby are also pictured above. God bless the American Legion, which continues doing such great, important work serving and advocating for our veterans!

Happy 100th – and Many More

Do you know someone who is turning 100 in 2020? If so, please let me know so I can help celebrate this wonderful occasion! I always love recognizing special people and special occasions throughout my 43rd Senate District. So be sure and share the GREAT news about an upcoming 100th birthday by e-mailing me at jordan@nysenate.gov, or calling my district office at **(518) 371-2751** so I can help observe this wonderful milestone of someone turning 100 years young!

Discussing the Environmental Protection Fund



Thursday afternoon, I met with representatives from Saratoga PLAN, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Inc., Lake George Land Conservancy, Adirondack Mountain Club, Battenkill Conservancy, and Columbia Land Conservancy (we are pictured

above in my Albany office). The groups were part of the “We Love NY” campaign. We discussed the importance of NY’s Environmental Protection Fund and my strong support for this initiative that supports clean water, open space preservation, and the preservation of our natural resources. Thank you all for visiting and sharing your priorities with me!

Meeting with BOCES Advocates



This week I also met with James Dexter, District Superintendent for Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex (WSWHE) BOCES and BOCES advocates in my Albany office (pictured above). We had a terrific conversation about the importance of BOCES to our workforce and region and ensuring proper funding in the 2020-21 State Budget. I appreciated having the opportunity to learn more about BOCES’ budgetary and legislative priorities.

Presenting the American Flag to Brownie Troop #1105, and Junior Girl Scout Troop #1076





Thursday evening's focus was our nation's fantastic Flag and encouraging the next generation of leaders. I'm pictured above with my good friend Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett presenting Brownie Troop #1105, and Junior Girl Scout Troop #1076, a new American Flag that was flown over the New York State Capitol. I'm also pictured with Columbia County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Benasky and K9 Apollo. We also had an opportunity to visit the Sheriff's Office and the 911 Dispatch Center Thursday evening. My thanks to Sheriff Bartlett for this invitation and also for letting me know that the Flag was needed because the Scout's previous Flag was old and tattered at their 9/11 ceremony. Congratulations

to the future leaders of Brownie Troop #1105 and Junior Girl Scout Troop #1076, I was proud to provide the Flag for you. Thank you all for your interest in, and respect for, our nation's Flag.

Taking Part in the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Meet the Legislators" Luncheon









Friday afternoon, I was a panelist at the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Meet the Legislators" discussion held at the Century House. My legislative colleagues Assemblyman Jake Ashby, Assemblymember John McDonald, and Senator Neil Breslin were my fellow panelists, with our discussion moderated by Stephen Baboulis, Vice President and General Manager of WNYT News Channel 13. Our panel discussion focused on several topics including the 2020 Census, workforce pipeline development, the impact of our state's continued out-migration, New York's Upstate-Downstate divide, as well as bail "reform" and possible changes. My thanks to Kate Manley, President of the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce (who I'm pictured above with, along with Assemblyman Ashby), for another great opportunity to share some of the latest of what's happening in Albany. I'm also pictured above with Dr. Christopher Ames, President of the Sage Colleges, Timothy Higgins, Sales Manager, Asphalt and Aggregates with Callanan Industries, Inc., and Cricket O'Dell, Regional Director at the Workforce Development Institute (WDI), and representatives from WERC.

Leaping Into Kindness!





2020 is a Leap Year – what will YOU do with your extra day? Why not make a positive difference and take a leap – of kindness! On Friday, I took part in the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce’s “Leap of Kindness Day” by bringing several bags of personal care and cleaning items donated by my staff and me for the Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, Inc. (MACSC). The bags of donations are pictured above, along with a photo of MACSC Executive Director Megan Quillinan and me. I encourage everyone to pay it forward and leap into kindness by supporting the MACSC with a donation. Hat tip to the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce for its continued advocacy of #leapofkindnessday!

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