

**Dear Friend:**

It's nearly mid-July, and as the temperature rises, so do the number of updates and news items contained in this July 10th edition of my Weekly Wrap! This week's Wrap contains information and pictures from my celebrating Independence Day, including attending and speaking at an American Legion ribbon cutting ceremony and taking part in a patriotic parade in Stillwater. You'll also find details about my Senate Summer Reading Program for kids, my efforts to re-unite military members and their families, and my support for an independent investigation into Governor Cuomo's deadly nursing home mandate that tragically claimed more than 6,000 senior citizens' lives.

You'll also read about my latest local hometown heroes for the 43rd Senate District that have stepped up to help our community during these trying times! If you have questions, concerns, or comments, call me at **(518) 371-2751**, e-mail me at jordan@nysenate.gov or visit my Senate webpage: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/daphne-jordan>.

For breaking news and important updates on social media, be sure to like, follow, and visit my Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. Have a fantastic weekend! –
Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

Proudly celebrating our nation's founding



Like millions of proud Americans, I had a great time celebrating the 4th of July last week! Now more than ever, it's important to remember and renew our commitment to the ideals that forged our nation's independence. During challenging times, it's our shared, cherished values as Americans that keep our nation vibrant and an exemplar of freedom across the world. I spoke at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new American Legion building and took part in an Independence Day Parade, all in Stillwater. These were terrific public events and I was proud to be with my friend Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and so many others. God bless America and let freedom ring!

Calling all young readers: Take part in my Senate Summer Reading Program!



Imagine Your Story

THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Summer Reading Program

Join Senator Daphne Jordan
IN A SUMMER READING QUEST THROUGH
THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOOKS!

Students & Guardians
Register at www.nyread.com

- Create a Profile
- Earn a Certificate
- Record Reading Progress

In cooperation with




Summer presents a terrific opportunity for young readers to continue developing their literacy abilities, pursue a lifelong love of learning, and prevent the dreaded “summertime slide” in reading skills. My New York State Senate Summer Reading Program encourages all these great outcomes by allowing parents and guardians from across the 43rd Senate District to enter their child’s summer reading activity so they can earn an official recognition of their achievement.

Children who participate in my Senate Summer Reading Program by reading three books before September 1 will receive an official New York State Senate

Certificate of Achievement. To take part in, and register for, my Summer Reading program, individuals may visit the following link containing more details: <https://www.nysenate.gov/nyread>.

The deadline for my Senate Summer Reading Program submissions is September 1, 2020. More resources and facts about the importance (and fun!) of summer reading – along with some terrific book suggestions for kids – can be found at the following sites:

New York's Libraries: <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/>

Scholastic's Kids and Families Reading Report: www.scholastic.com

Let's encourage young readers to explore the amazing world of books and discover the fun of summertime reading!

Honoring more Hometown Heroes from the 43rd Senate District



Proud to again recognize some terrific #HometownHeroes from my 43rd Senate District for all they're doing to help the community.



Proud that my 43rd Senate District is home to so many wonderful individuals, businesses, and non-profits that go out of their way to support and strengthen our community. This eleventh edition of my Hometown Heroes recognizes two outstanding small businesses and their owners: Brad and Erin Hapeman of B PA's Construction in Hudson, and Eric Connors of Legends Barbershop in Mechanicville. Their generosity and compassion showcase them as true Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District, and I'm proud to salute their efforts!

Brad & Erin Hapeman, B PA'S Construction, Hudson

Brad and Erin Hapeman, owners of B PA's Construction made a generous donation consisting of 84 cases of water to be shared between the City of Hudson Fire Department and the Town of Greenport Fire Department. They donated the water because they wanted to help keep members healthy and hydrated during the long, hot summer months.

Eric Connors, Legends Barbershop, Mechanicville

After reopening their doors on June 3, Legends Barbershop said they wanted to help their community in a way they knew how. The barbershop decided to offer free haircuts to high school seniors in June. After announcing on their Facebook, they've had an overwhelmingly positive response. Legends Barbershop Owner Eric Connors said he decided to make the haircuts free after reflecting on his own positive experience as a senior and feeling bad for those seniors whose experience may have been cut short.

Standing up for our military members and their families



Governor Cuomo's recent Executive Order mandates that anyone entering New York from one of now 19 designated states (Alabama; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Delaware; Florida; Georgia; Iowa; Idaho; Kansas; Louisiana; Mississippi; North Carolina; Nevada; Oklahoma; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas, and Utah, respectively) quarantine for 14 days unless taking part or engaging in responsibilities as a first responder/essential worker upon their entry or return to New York (or meet some other exemption, i.e., if the individual were in one of those states for less than 24 hours).

The reality of the Governor's quarantine requirement is causing undue hardship for members of our military and their families. In fact, an Airman hailing from my 43rd Senate District that is stationed in Texas was recently denied an opportunity by the administration to return to New York for his beloved grandfather's funeral in Upstate. After long, grueling training periods away from their families, New York's patriots deserve to be welcomed back to civilian and professional life, not sequestered into a mandatory 14-day quarantine because they trained in a certain state.

That's why I called on the Cuomo administration to immediately begin COVID-19 testing for every military troop transport plane when it lands in New York State and provide for expedited results. We need to ensure that the men and women of our military who protect our liberty have access to the very same cherished freedoms as all New Yorkers and can return to their families!

My letter to the Governor, signed by many of my Senate Republican colleagues, is pictured directly below, and you can also read my press release with more details on my Senate webpage: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/daphne-jordan>.



July 7, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write concerning your recently issued Executive Order No. 205: "*Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in New York*" and call attention to your mandate's real-world impact on the courageous men and women of our military returning home from training or the performance of their official duties.

Your Executive Order No. 205 mandates that anyone entering New York from one of 16 designated states (Alabama; Arkansas; Arizona; California; Florida; Georgia; Iowa; Idaho; Louisiana; Mississippi; North Carolina; Nevada; South Carolina; Tennessee; Texas and Utah, respectively) to quarantine for 14 days unless taking part or engaging in responsibilities as a first responder/essential worker upon their entry or return to New York (or meet some other exemption, i.e., if the individual were in one of those states for less than 24 hours).

Thus, as mandated by your Executive Order, National Guard troops from New York State taking part in military training in South Carolina that return home must quarantine unless they are continuing National Guard duties while in New York or are in some other way an "essential worker" in their regular jobs.

The reality of your quarantine requirement is causing undue hardship for members of our military and their families. Case in point, an Airman hailing from the 43rd Senate District and stationed in Texas was recently denied an opportunity by your administration to return to New York for his beloved grandfather's funeral in Upstate due to your Executive Order.

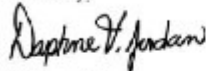
After long, grueling training periods away from their families, New York's patriots deserve to be welcomed back to civilian and professional life, not sequestered into a mandatory 14-day quarantine because they trained in a certain state. As you will recall, at the height of New York's COVID crisis, which our National Guard so bravely and effectively responded to, our state had three times the rate of Coronavirus cases as the threshold set for your recent travel quarantine. Without question, the men and women of our military deserve the same freedoms as all New Yorkers and the state should take every appropriate step to ensure their safe, timely re-entry.

Accordingly, we call upon your administration to immediately begin COVID-19 testing for every military troop transport plane when it lands in New York State and provide for expedited results.

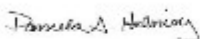
As you have often alluded to during your press conferences, New York has emerged as a leader in testing capacity, so the State Department of Health should already have the necessary supplies ready to test returning military members immediately upon their arrival. As your quarantine mandate was a state order, New York State should, of course, pick up all costs associated with testing or any lost work.

Thank you in advance for your attention to our request made on behalf of the courageous men and women of America's armed forces who are returning home to New York State.

Sincerely,



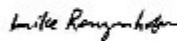
Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District



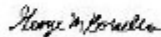
Pamela Helming
State Senator, 54th District



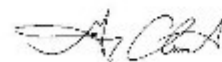
Patty Ritchie
State Senator, 48th District



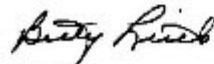
Michael Ranzenhofer
State Senator, 61st District



George Bonello
State Senator, 57th District



George Annedore
State Senator, 46th District



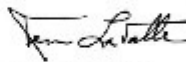
Betty Little
State Senator, 45th District



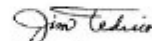
Rich Funke
State Senator, 55th District



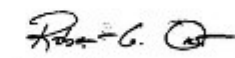
Chris Jacobs
State Senator, 60th District



Kenneth LaValle
State Senator, 1st District



Jim Tedisco
State Senator, 49th District



Robert Orr
Senate Republican Leader

Calling for accountability and an independent state-federal investigation into Governor Cuomo's nursing home policies



Our new Senate Republican Leader Senator Rob Ortt issued the following powerful statement earlier this week (below) about the need for an independent investigation into Governor Cuomo's deadly mandate that forced nursing homes to accept COVID-19 positive patients. The Governor's reckless mandate is widely believed to have claimed nearly 6,000 senior citizen's lives, possibly many more. Instead of blaming family members or nursing home staff, the administration should accept responsibility for issuing their mandate.

We need a thorough, independent state and federal investigation as I've been calling for these past few months to get answers, ensure accountability, and provide nursing homes the resources and support they need to prevent such an avoidable tragedy from ever happening again.

STATEMENT FROM NYS SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER ROB ORTT ON CORONAVIRUS IN NURSING HOMES

Governor Cuomo and his Department of Health Commissioner's continual attempts to distort reality are an insult to every New Yorker who lost a mother, father, grandma, grandpa, or other loved one in a nursing home, long-term care, or assisted living facility.

The fact is that coronavirus ravaged a nursing home in Kirkland, Washington in late February, and the devastation illustrated the danger the virus posed to our

seniors. Instead of swiftly acting to protect our most vulnerable, Cuomo and his Health Commissioner did nothing.

The Cuomo administration now blames family members and dedicated staff instead of their botched March 25 directive that sent COVID-19 positive patients walking into the door. The Cuomo administration's failure to accept responsibility for their disastrous response has been outrageous, but to blame family members who have suffered devastating losses – who were not even able to say goodbye at funerals – is the ultimate low.

It's not only the March 25 directive that led to this disastrous and deadly outcome. At the start of the crisis, the Cuomo administration fixated on holding daily briefings to gain national attention while our seniors in nursing homes were an afterthought.

The Senate Republican Conference called for measures to be taken, but not Cuomo or a single Democrat did anything.

An independent investigation is needed to understand what went wrong to provide answers to families and to help our nursing homes deal with infection control, not a report issued by the Cuomo administration and their allies.

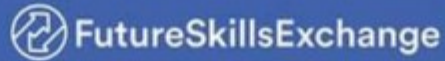
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Update on Canal water levels from New York Power Authority

This week, my office received an informational update that I'm sharing (below) from the New York Power Authority re: Canal water levels:

“As you are well aware water levels on the Canal are approximately 6 inches below normal. This condition is a result of the Canal corporation's efforts to install the upstream movable dams coupled with the abnormal dry conditions that exist. We are working with Canals to ensure that their actions don't impact the Vischer Ferry pool level. The Crescent pool is about 2-3 inches lower but being maintained at current levels. We are reaching out to the local marina operators to give them the heads up as well. We will continue to keep you posted.”

New tools from the Workforce Development Institute



Connecting today's workforce to the skills of tomorrow

Introducing the **Future Skills Exchange (FSX)**: a free, web-based marketplace for skill development and career advancement

Who can benefit from this platform?



Educational Institutions

Educational institutions see courses and certifications become easily discoverable by employers and the workforce.



Individuals

Individuals find relevant training to move ahead in their careers.



Employers

Employers find the right trainings or certifications for their workforce, either locally or remotely.



Educational Providers

Share your institution's or organization's course offerings at FutureSkillsX.org today. Generate exposure to your courses and the breadth of degree and non-degree options available at your institution.

[Share courses now](#)



FutureSkillsX.org

Developed by the Workforce Development Institute, a leader in facilitating programs that strengthen New York State's workforce.




What other organizations will be participating in FSX?

Unions
Create awareness of your training and apprenticeships, building a stable hiring pipeline and bolstering diversity.

Associations and industry groups
Strengthen member businesses by educating and nurturing the existing workforce as well as directing potential members to credentials and training.

Career and technical schools
Establish a career path for non-traditional students.

Get started in two easy steps:

- 1 Register your institution/organization**

- 2 Once approved, enter your course offerings**


Questions? Contact Lois Johnson at FSX@wdiny.org

WDI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

FutureSkillsX.org
Developed by the Workforce Development Institute, a leader in facilitating programs that strengthen New York State's workforce.

Also this week, the Workforce Development Institute (WDI) shared news with me regarding a new tool that it has developed and will soon be available to employers and job seekers in New York State. The Future Skills Exchange (FSX), is an interactive, web-based platform that connects New Yorkers seeking courses, apprenticeships, credentials, and assessments directly to the education and training providers who deliver them.

As noted by the WDI, the coronavirus outbreak continues to dramatically change the employment landscape, and the demand for new skills is intensifying in an increasingly digital world. To meet those needs, FSX promises to serve as a

powerful tool to help prepare job seekers and learners for successful re-entry into the labor market, or transition to new employment opportunities as our state begins to reopen the economy. More details on FSX (which is in the first phase of launching) are outlined in the pictures above.

Delivering Hand Sanitizer to the Richard M. Hurst Harbor Center



On Thursday, I made my most recent special delivery of New York State Hand Sanitizer to the Richard M. Hurst Harbor Center in beautiful Waterford. I'm pictured above with Jeff Cleary, Harbor Master.

It's always terrific being able to provide this much-needed resource that will help keep individuals and communities safe and healthy!

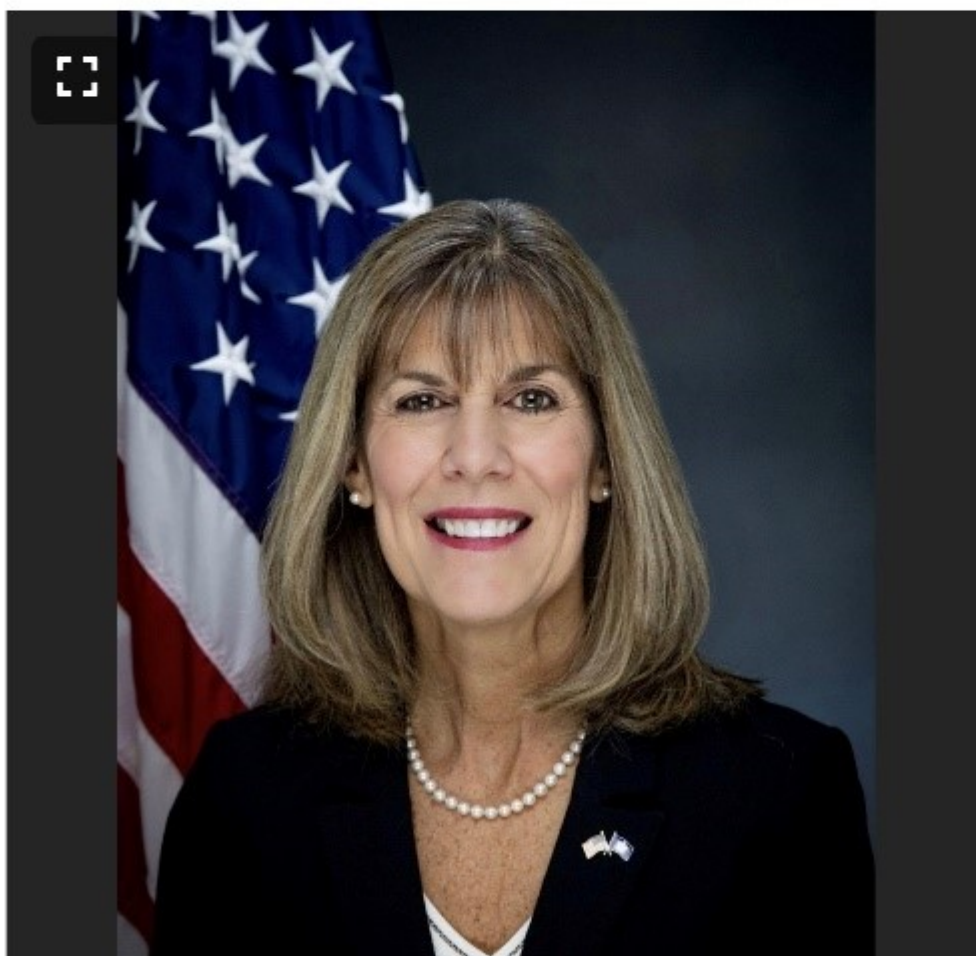
My monthly column in the Saratogian and Troy Record: Governor Cuomo continues moving the Phase 4 economic reopening goalposts

THE SARATOGIAN



Reader's View: Gov. Cuomo moving Phase 4 reopening goalposts hurts small businesses, imperils our economic recovery

By Senator Daphne Jordan Jul 4, 2020 Comments



Last weekend, the Saratogian (pictured above) and Troy Record both ran my monthly column on the topic of Upstate's Phase 4 economic reopening and how the Governor had once again moved the goalposts by failing to include gyms, movie theaters, and malls which hurts small businesses and imperils our economic

recovery.

You can read my monthly column in the Saratogian at this link: https://www.saratogian.com/news/local-news/readers-view-gov-cuomo-moving-phase-4-reopening-goalposts-hurts-small-businesses-imperils-our-economic/article_2160b820-e3ff-53e3-8ec5-f1c0737a88cd.html.

And you can read my monthly column in the Troy Record at this link: https://www.troyrecord.com/news/local-news/readers-view-gov-cuomo-moving-phase-4-reopening-goalposts-hurts-small-businesses-imperils-our-economic/article_ab82e1dc-bbed-11ea-9fc8-838e3e608a53.html (please note: to read the column online, you will need to be an online subscriber to the papers).

My thanks to the Saratogian and Troy Record for this continued terrific opportunity to have a conversation with my constituents!

Unemployment Update

The following are the latest numbers concerning requests for assistance in securing state unemployment benefits that my office continues receiving:

- **As of today (Friday), a total of 505 constituents have reached out for help in securing unemployment benefits; and**
- **There have been 1,735 exchanged emails between my office and the New York State Department of Labor on behalf of my constituents.**

If you or a loved one are seeking unemployment benefits and need help, please call my Director of Constituent Services Dan Casale at **(518) 371-2751**. My office will do everything possible to be of assistance!

Albany Office:
508 Legislative Office Bldg
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2381

District Office:
1580 Columbia Tpke, Bldg 2 Ste 1
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
518-371-2751



THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE