



Dear Friend:

'Tis the season for the December 13 edition of my Weekly Wrap! In this week's edition, there is lots of important news to share with you about the legal challenge to NY's Green Light Law (that gives driver's licenses to illegal immigrants). Also, with Christmas now less than two weeks away, I've included information on a fun holiday happening, small business grand openings, and my continued efforts to keep your seasonal deliveries secure by preventing Porch Piracy. Enjoy your weekend and thanks for reading my Weekly Wrap. – **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Department of Justice Gives Big Boost to Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola's Legal Challenge to the Green Light Law

The Record recently ran a terrific article about the United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) recent support for Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola's principled and courageous legal challenge to NY's so-called Green Light Law that gives driver's licenses to illegal immigrants (and opens the door to endless ID fraud and voter fraud, as well as endangering public safety). The DOJ deemed New York's Green Light Law "legally suspect" which is welcome news for everyone who supports the rule of law! I've been leading the fight in the NYS Senate against this poorly written, bad law and will continue advocating for this measure to be rolled back. You can read the article in The Record here:

https://www.troyrecord.com/news/trump-doj-argues-on-behalf-of-merola-in-suit-against/article_0d400a3c-1863-11ea-8288-0fd0d816c9b6.html.

Supporting the Dwyer Program to Help More Veterans



On Friday, I had a great meeting with Frank McClement, Director of the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency (who I'm pictured with above). We discussed the important role that Saratoga County's Veterans Peer to Peer Program plays in providing opportunities for local veterans who have reintegrated into civilian life to assist fellow veterans who may experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other re-acclimation challenges. Created through the 2012-13 State Budget, the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer-to-Peer Program (aka the Dwyer Program) helps our military veterans dealing with the invisible wounds of war, including PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and depression. The Dwyer Program empowers veterans to meet with other veterans in a safe, secure, comfortable atmosphere so they may help one another by providing life-saving counseling services and support. Military veterans are much more likely to confer in, and trust, their peers who have endured similar experiences. Personalized and informal, these pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from military to civilian life. Saratoga County's Veterans Peer to Peer Program is recognized as one of the most effective and efficient in the entire state. I was proud to have advocated for and secured \$185,000 in Dwyer Program funding for Saratoga County as part of the State Budget. For more on this terrific program, visit www.veteranspeertopeer.org.

Ribbon Cutting for Sievert's Sporting Goods in Halfmoon



Friday marked the official ribbon cutting for Sievert's Sporting Goods located at the Crossings of Halfmoon. Sievert's Sporting Goods is family-owned and operated by the Wojdyla Family. Sievert's Sporting Goods offers a wide variety of sports gear, footwear, trophies, uniforms, and proudly supports all local schools. Sievert's has been in business since the 1980s with the original store having been located in Amsterdam. I presented an NYS Senate Certificate to recognize Friday's happy occasion. Welcome to Halfmoon and the 43rd Senate District, Sievert's Sporting Goods!

New Supercomputer Unveiled



Also on Friday, I attended the unveiling of a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Supercomputer – the “Artificial Intelligence Multiprocessing Optimized System,” aka AiMOS – at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s (RPI) Center for Computational Innovations in the Rensselaer Tech Park. The groundbreaking effort represents a successful collaboration between IBM, SUNY Poly, and RPI. This is now the most powerful supercomputer in New York State, the most powerful supercomputer housed at a private university in the United States, the most energy-efficient supercomputer in our nation, and the 24th most powerful supercomputer in the world. AiMOS can deliver a sustained performance of 8 petaflops and has a peak performance of 12 petaflops. FLOPS are floating-point operations per second. A floating-point operation is any mathematical operation that involves floating-point numbers, which are numbers that have decimal points in them. A petaflop is the ability to do 1 quadrillion — or 1 thousand million million — FLOPS. To keep up with the power of AiMOS, each of the roughly 8 billion people here on Earth would have to perform 1 million calculations per second! I’m pictured above with Assemblyman Jake Ashby and Assemblymember John McDonald at the supercomputer unveiling. Congratulations to everyone involved in this successful, innovative collaboration!

Halfmoon Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony



Sunday was a wonderful winter wonderland for Halfmoon's Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony. I'm pictured above with my good friend Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen as we rang in the holiday season together and lit the trees. This is a very special event in Halfmoon: each family that sponsored their loved one's Memorial Tree decorated that particular tree. If you're looking for some holiday cheer and Christmas inspiration, then Halfmoon is your destination!

My Monthly Column Opposing Albany's \$100 Million Welfare-for-Politicians Scheme

As mentioned in the previous edition of my Weekly Wrap, New York State faces a massive \$6.1 billion budget gap, yet Albany still wants to spend \$100 million of taxpayer's money to pay for politicians' campaigns and disenfranchise the voices of hundreds of thousands of voters. Instead of ho-ho-ho, I say no-no-no to Albany's latest scheme to pick taxpayers' pockets. The Record and the Saratogian carried my monthly column on the important topic and it is also posted on my Senate website – <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators/daphne-jordan> – so you can read it in its entirety. My thanks to The Record and Saratogian for running my column.

Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony



On Monday, I attended Rensselaer County's Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony honoring the life and legacy of Ellen McKnight, who served in the United States Army Nurse Corps during World War II and stationed in Texas, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and Okinawa, Japan. During this time, nurses served closer on the front lines than ever before and served in field hospitals, hospital trains, ships, and as flight nurses on medical transport planes. Ms. McKnight was honorably discharged on December 21, 1945, and re-enlisted on December 15, 1948, where she served until August 14, 1950. For her honorable service, she was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the Women's Army Corps Service Medal. After the service, Ellen McKnight returned to civilian life and married her second husband James McKnight. They were married on March 31, 1950, and together they had five sons: David, Douglas, Colin, Stuart, and Donald. Ellen supported her family as a Registered Nurse at Maple Hill High School. She was also an active member of the Castleton Study Club, the Castleton Seniors, the Trinity Lutheran Church in Castleton, and the Castleton VFW Post 7337. Ellen McKnight passed away on October 27, 2017, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. God bless Ellen McKnight for her courageous service to the United States of America!

Bucciario's Pizzeria Grand Opening

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Wednesday marked the grand opening of Bucciero's Pizzeria in Stillwater. Pictured above is a photo of the pizzeria and the owners Dominic, Joe, and family. Congratulations to everyone at Bucciero's Pizzeria, it's great being able to showcase and celebrate successful businesses across my 43rd Senate District.

Putting Porch Piracy "In Focus"



I'll be appearing on In Focus with Solomon Syed this Sunday on Spectrum News discussing my new legislation that aims to prevent porch piracy and keep holiday deliveries safe. In Focus is a terrific, 30-minute public affairs program hosted by the award-winning reporter and evening anchor Solomon Syed, exclusively on Spectrum News. Each week, Solomon invites experts around Albany to discuss a wide range of issues affecting our Capital Region. In Focus airs on Spectrum News each Sunday at 10:30 a.m., and repeats Sunday at 3:30 p.m. In 2017, 25.9 million Americans

experienced package theft, up from 23 million in 2015, and 74% of packages are stolen from homes during the day when homeowners are at work and the average value of stolen packages is \$50-100. Porch Piracy is a serious, growing crime so be sure and catch my conversation with Solomon Syed on In Focus this Sunday!

Tax and Spending Hikes on NY's Horizon?

Spectrum News' State of Politics website ran an insightful article about New York's \$6.1 billion budget gap and various proposals seeking to close the shortfall. Unfortunately, many Albany politicians are looking at returning to the bad old days of higher taxes and spending to address the budget shortfall. More taxes and more spending aren't the answers to closing a \$6.1 billion budget gap; fiscal responsibility is what's needed. You can read the State of Politics article here: <https://tinyurl.com/vxbbwp8>.

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