


OPINION

PHIL PALMESANO | 132ND ASSEMBLY

Honor our vets every day

It was one of the most important days I've ever spent in the Capitol. On June 16, 2016, I enjoyed the unforgettable honor of meeting four of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. They were in Albany to commemorate their 75th Anniversary. To be in the same room as these heroes was thrilling. Tuskegee Airmen were expert, daring aviators, flying more than 1,500 combat missions that devastated Axis aircraft, supply trains and transport vehicles during World War II. They battled bigotry and racism with equal intensity. The all-black fighting force trained at Moton Field, the Tuskegee Army Air Field, and studied at Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee University. To look them in the eye and thank them for their service was so humbling and so important to me. Little did I know that I would have another opportunity to express my gratitude. Recently, I had the privilege of meeting Herbert Thope, a pilot for the Tuskegee Airmen. His story was featured during a moving historical presentation at Corning Community College celebrating the inedible impact these American heroes imprinted on our country. Their stories explain exactly why it's so important to thank them for their service, sacrifice and incredible achievements. Saying thank you to those who serve is so important. The last two years, I've had the honor

of attending the veteran's parade at Center St. Elementary. Local veterans marched through the halls while the children looked on, clapped and waved American flags. It shows our kids at a young age that service is honorable, that sacrifice is important and that saying thank you provides these heroes with a small fraction of the recognition they deserve. One of the best ways we can thank our veterans each and every day is by being good citizens. Strengthen the communities they've served. Participate in the democracy they fought for. Help the neighbors they protect. We owe all of our brave veterans heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. We owe it to them to be good to one another. I want to challenge all of us to try to show this appreciation and thanks year-round. You can volunteer at your local VA or visit a veteran in a nursing home. You can mow a lawn, rake leaves or shovel a sidewalk for a veteran. If you're a teacher, encourage students in your class to make cards and care packages to send to our troops in harm's way overseas. Or it can be as simple as going up to a veteran or one of our brave active duty servicemen and women and saying "thank you," because these heroes never have and never will hesitate to lay down their life to protect all of us, our families and the rights and freedoms we all hold so dear.



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PG-13 INSTANT FAMILY	1:30	4:25	7:00	9:25
PG-13 FANTASTIC BEASTS: CRIMES OF GRINELWALD	1:10		6:55	9:40
PG-13 FANTASTIC BEASTS: CRIMES OF GRINELWALD 3D		4:00		
R WIDOWS	1:30	4:10	7:00	9:40
R THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER WEB	1:25	4:30	7:05	9:35
PG DR. SUESS' THE GRINCH	1:20		7:20	9:20
PG DR. SUESS' THE GRINCH 3D		4:20		
PG NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS	1:35	4:15	7:15	9:30
PG-13 BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY	1:15	4:05	6:55	9:45

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TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

Hunting and a tradition of giving

The opening of this year's regular deer hunting season means it's time for this annual reminder on the Southern Tier-based Venison Donation Coalition. Over the past 20 years, the Coalition has helped put a good meal on many tables throughout the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions, and throughout New York State. Millions of tables, in fact. Today the coalition has 85 processors in 52 counties. Since 1999 it has coordinated the processing of an average of 38 tons of venison annually and provided more than 4 million highly nutritious, low-fat, high-protein servings to individuals, children and families in need. Talk about making a difference, and talk about timely. According to federal statistics, at least 15 percent of New York State households live in poverty. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier, a strong supporter and partner of the Venison Donation Coalition, serves over 18,000 people a week - children, seniors, veterans, and so many others -- throughout its

six-county service area. The opening of the regular deer season represents one of the most important economic cycles of the year. Deer hunting is a mainstay of the regional and statewide recreational economy, by some estimates accounting for \$2 billion of economic activity and nearly 30,000 jobs statewide. Steuben County, for example, remains one of the Northeast's premiere deer hunting destinations. In early October, this year's 12th annual, hugely successful Southern Tier Outdoor Show continued to offer further testimony to the importance of outdoor activities to the regional economy! But back to the Venison Donation Coalition. It's a foundation supported by sportsmen's organizations, of course, but also by corporations, local farm bureaus, government agencies, civic and religious groups, and individual citizens. I am always grateful to call attention to its work. In government, particularly in an era like the current one defined

by limited resources to address seemingly infinite demands, we are constantly encouraging individual citizens and organizations to contribute to the overall quality and strength of our communities. It was 25 years ago when a local "Hunters for the Hungry" program was prepared to donate 400 pounds of venison for distribution to the needy and discovered that state law prevented it. As a result, "Hunters for the Hungry" programs operating throughout New York at that time, 1993, were being told they couldn't donate over 10,000 pounds of venison to food banks and other organizations providing meals to the unemployed, shut-ins, senior citizens and other needy citizens. It made no sense. As a result, the Legislature quickly acted to establish a program to authorize the donations. The Venison Donation Coalition that resulted is now a broad-based partnership including many area supporters. It has facilitated the donation of venison to food banks, food pantries, soup

kitchens, and additional not-for-profit organizations and charities that feed the poor. The response has been overwhelming. It is, simply put, an admirable effort. Never underestimate the spirit of commitment and giving it has encouraged. As I have often said, we will continue to develop infrastructure, promote tourism, improve schools, protect citizens, and do anything and everything possible to enhance our economic position. However, along with these fundamental responsibilities is a responsibility to the quality of life for everyone. That is what makes the ongoing work of the Venison Donation Coalition important, inspiring, and meaningful. As the Coalition notes, the donation of just \$1 provides four meals. For every dollar donated, the Coalition puts 90 cents towards processing donated venison. For more information, visit the Venison Donation Coalition online at www.venisondonation.com or call 1-866-862-3337 (DEER).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks from Scouting for Food Drive

To the Editor, I'd like to thank all those involved in the Scouting for Food Drive Sat Nov 10. The scouts and leaders of Troops 2, 79, 91, and 129 collected over 2,500 pounds of non-perishable foods for the Painted Post Food Pantry. Thank you to all who donated food, and your time so generously; the students of Corning-Painted Post High School, Vinnie's Village Mini Mart, the Scouts and our community. Your efforts make a

significant impact in providing food for our neighbors in need, and are greatly appreciated. Anyone in need of food can visit the Painted Post Food Pantry monthly. We are located at the United Churches of Painted Post, and are open weekday mornings. Please call 962-1455 for an appointment. Volunteers, donations of food or in-kind support of our efforts to feed the hungry in our community are always welcome. Please consider our organization for your Holiday giving. Thank you again for all who help to support our

community. Many benefit when neighbors help neighbors in need.

*Phyllis Draper
Painted Post Food Pantry, Inc*

Coleman should discuss Reed's success

To the Editor, For Dr. Stephen Coleman's next political forum, I would like to suggest that he discuss whether or not Dr. Stephen Coleman has been a success or failure. Because Tom Reed, most assuredly, has been a resounding success.

Tom Reed just won his fourth consecutive reelection. Furthermore, his record against "extreme Ithaca Liberals" is 3-0. Additionally, all these "extreme Ithaca Liberals" were educated, so to speak, at Cornell University. I must be truly exceptional, because I too was educated at Cornell University; and I am an "extreme Campbell conservative." Maybe I should have paid closer attention. Incidentally, I now refer to my alma mater as "Berkley East."

*Tim Forester
Campbell*

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Sat. 11/17	3:30, 6:30, 9:15
Sun. 11/18	3:30, 6:30
Mon. 11/19	6:30
Tues. 11/20	Closed
Wed. 11/21	3:30, 6:30
Thurs. 11/22	THANKSGIVING DAY 3:30, 6:30

THE GRINCH LAST CHANCE TO SEE
(Benedict Cumberbatch, Rashida Jones, Angela Lansbury) Rated PG (1hr 30 Min)

Fri. 11/16	6:15, 8:15
Sat. 11/17	3:15, 6:15, 8:15
Sun. 11/18	3:15, 6:15
Mon. 11/19	6:15
Tues. 11/20	Closed
Wed. 11/21	3:15, 6:15

RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET
(John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Gal Gadot) Rated PG (1hr 52 Min)

Thurs. 11/22	THANKSGIVING DAY 3:15, 6:15
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