



# SENATOR JIM ALESI

*Community Update: Week Ending 5/21/10*



## **PENFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL DESIGNATED: SCHOOL TO WATCH**



I was proud to join Principal Winton Buddington, faculty, staff, students and parents, earlier today at Bay Trail Middle School in Penfield at a ceremony designating Bay Trail Middle School as a School to Watch. Congratulations to Bay Trail Middle School!

Sponsored by Essential Elements, the Schools to Watch program celebrates schools that have distinguished themselves in academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organization and structure. In addition to its wide variety of academic programs, Bay Trail Middle School offers its 1,000 students in grades six through eight numerous opportunities to excel in the arts, athletics and extracurricular activities. Unquestionably, Bay Trail Middle School's designation as a School to Watch stands as a true testimony to the school's standards of excellence, its uncompromising values, unparalleled dedication, and the special teamwork of its family of administrators, teachers, students and parents.

With this designation, Bay Trail Middle School joins seventeen other schools in New York State, and just over 200 schools across the United States, to receive this most prestigious honor. In addition to being presented the official School to Watch banner today, Bay Trail Middle School will be recognized at a national award ceremony in Washington, D.C., at the end of June.

## **CELEBRATING EMS WEEK**

This week, May 16th – 22nd, is National Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week throughout the United States. In New York State, volunteers are the lifeblood of hundreds of fire and ambulance companies, and other various first-responder units, and should be recognized for their efforts. Having grown up in a family that served with local volunteer fire and ambulance companies, I have seen first-hand the dedication and commitment of many selfless volunteers when saving lives and protecting the public. Our first responders have one of the toughest jobs – often responding to unknown and dangerous situations, putting their lives on the line to save ours.

That is why it is so important to honor the thousands of brave men and women that volunteer in our local fire and ambulance companies. Again this year, as in past years, I have introduced a resolution to be passed on the floor of the Senate to commemorate May 16 – 22, 2010, as Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Week in New York State, recognizing the countless sacrifices and contributions volunteer fire and ambulance personnel make in order to provide the necessary – and vital – care and comfort needed each year by millions of New Yorkers.

During my tenure in the Senate, I have been extremely fortunate to secure nearly \$4 million for local fire and ambulance companies, and first-responder units within the 55th Senate District, including agencies in Chili, East Rochester, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Mendon, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, Riga, Rush and Wheatland. As not-for-profit, volunteer organizations, it is challenging for local fire and ambulance companies to continue to offer their members up-to-date training and state-of-the-art equipment – often required by federal and state regulations – and modern amenities when they are stationed away from home without support from community leaders and residents. I am always proud to help one of my volunteer agencies when I can.

Please join me in thanking our many wonderful fire and ambulance volunteers, many of whom are never seen unless our lives are in jeopardy. God bless them all.

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