



# SENATOR JIM ALESI

*Community Update: Week Ending 6/18/10*



## HONORING OUR NATION'S FLAG: FLAG DAY, MONDAY, JUNE 15th

Dear Neighbor,

Any time our military has fought on foreign soil, Americans have displayed our flag as an important way for those of us at home to express our support and prayers for the courageous men and women serving our country.

Our American Flag has long exemplified the spirit of those who have lost their lives in battle, as well as those who have fought valiantly and survived. It stands for all our ancestors who worked, saved and sacrificed at home to raise their families in such a strong, free and prosperous land. It stands for the freedom that so many other countries in the world are just now beginning to experience. It stands for us and, heaven permit, it will fly for our children and our children's children in a land still strong and free.

American jurist, Oliver Wendell Holmes, may have said it best: "One Flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation, evermore!"

For more history of our American Flag, or for further information on when to display our flag, salute our flag, or dispose of our flag properly, I encourage you to contact my office.

## MIXED MARTIAL ARTS LEGALIZED OVER MY STRONG OPPOSITION

Earlier this week, the Senate passed legislation that will legalize mixed martial arts. I am strongly opposed to such a brutal activity and I voted against the bill (Senate bill 2165-B).

More and more often, members of our society – most noticeably our children – are subjected to acts of violence, whether it is seen on the local news, in the movie theaters, or experienced through video games. The more violence is witnessed, the more desensitized we become. Even scarier, the more desensitized we become, the more apt members of our society are to commit violence without realizing its consequences.

Another serious concern I have regarding the legalization of professional mixed martial arts is the possibility that, amateur bouts will begin to form outside the ring, taking place in neighborhood establishments, or on the streets, or in our schools. I believe that allowing this brutal activity will erode the safety of our communities.

## NEW YORK CITY POLITICIANS PUMMEL UPSTATE TAXPAYERS...ONCE AGAIN

Yesterday, Senate Democrats voted for legislation that inevitably will cause a dangerous shortage in the supply of home heating oil, and consequently, will lead to home heating costs to rise dramatically this winter.

In an effort to reduce sulfur dioxide in New York City, Senate bill 1145-C will mandate that the sulfur content in #2 heating oil, known commonly as home heating oil, throughout the state is no greater than 15 parts per million, beginning July 1, 2012. What the bill sponsor and other supporters fail to recognize is that the two-year time frame given to refineries to meet the new requirements will not allow for full compliance, thereby creating a shortage of #2 heating oil in New York that will without question, negatively affect Upstate taxpayers.

To assist Upstate homeowners, I supported an amendment to S.1145-C that would have pushed the effective date of the law back to 2014, to provide adequate time for refineries to adopt the new standards of 15 parts per million, and prevent a spike in the costs of home heating oil. It is estimated that the current time frame of July 1, 2012 will increase the price of home heating oil by 20 to 30 cents per gallon, costing Upstate consumers almost \$1 billion. Also, depending on how severe our winter weather is, upstate taxpayers could be forced to pay as much as 60 cents per gallon, or an average of \$600 extra per family to heat their homes.

But the amendment was defeated and the bill was passed. Even more disingenuous, was that my Senate colleagues from New York City, excluded #6 heating oil from this legislation; #6 heating oil is used primarily in high-rise apartment buildings in New York City.

Sadly, this legislative session has been marred by many bills passed by New York City Senators for the benefit of New York City residents at the expense of Upstate taxpayers.

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 20th

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