

NEW YORK STATE  
SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY  
2012

*Honoring Those Who Help  
Others and Make Their Communities  
Better for Citizens of All Ages*



NEW YORK STATE CAPITOL  
BLUE ROOM

ALBANY, NEW YORK  
MAY 8, 2012



# New York State Office for the Aging

*“Today we are recognizing a group of dedicated seniors for their outstanding service to their community. They are examples of the power of volunteering and working to make our neighborhoods stronger and our entire state a better place to live. I applaud these New Yorkers for their commitment to service and for helping those less fortunate than themselves. They are a part of why New York is indeed the Empire state.”*

**--Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**



# **2012 Senior Citizens' Day Ceremony**

WELCOME

Greg Olsen, Acting Director  
New York State Office for the Aging

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION OF  
THE GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE AWARDS

RECOGNITION OF COUNTY HONOREES and  
AWARD RECIPIENTS

CLOSING

## **New York State Office for the Aging** *County Awardees*

### **ALBANY**

#### ***Norman Fancher***

Norman and his wife joined the STARS (Seniors Teaching And Reaching out to Students) Program at A.W. Becker Elementary School in 2004. He volunteers for the homework club and summer reading program three days a week helping students with assignments. Norm and his wife present puppet shows on wildlife behavior for Kindergarten and first-graders at both A.W. Becker and P.B. Coeymans elementary schools. They also volunteer with the Environmental Club at A.W. Becker. Norm contributed 715 hours of service last year, more than any other STARS volunteer.

#### ***William “Bill” Schwartz***

Bill spent his career as a dedicated professional in the education field. The final 18 years of his career were spent as the Superintendent at the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk (R-C-S) Central School District then as the Director of a Charter School. As Superintendent of Schools at R-C-S, Bill helped form the STARS Intergen Corporation and served as the organizations first Board President. Bill has supported the organization throughout the years and continues to lead the organization as the current STARS Intergen Board President. Through his dedicated volunteer efforts with STARS Intergen, Bill has ensured that intergenerational programs exist and continue to flourish within the R-C-S School District. The intergenerational programs unite youth and seniors through mutually beneficial programs and activities in the two elementary schools, middle school and high school. Bill is also a founding volunteer member of the Albany County Health Insurance Counseling and

Assistance Program (HIICAP). Through his volunteer efforts with the HIICAP Program, Bill helps plan and facilitate HIICAP volunteer meetings and trainings along with direct counseling to seniors seeking information about the various Medicare Part D plans.

## ALLEGANY

### ***Eleanor “Ellie” Riber***

#### ***Rob Riber***

Sixteen years ago Eleanor (Ellie) began her volunteer career at the Allegany Office for the Aging as a Long Term Care Ombudsman. She has been assigned to the two largest facilities in the county. Her compassion, wit, and sense of justice have made her an effective advocate for the residents she visits. She has handled some of the most difficult cases with skill and wisdom.

Rob has been volunteering for the Office for the Aging for 12 years. He is a member of the Advisory Council and provides rides for older adults to their medical appointments. Rob served on the volunteer handyman crew that assembled all the desks in the new Office for Aging building. Two years ago Rob was part of the group that formed the TRIAD in Allegany County. He currently serves as its president.

## BROOME

### ***Beverly Eggleston***

Bev volunteers her time and talents to the Eastern Broome Senior Center and throughout the community. Bev has volunteered for many years in various positions at the senior center including: Site Council Treasurer, office receptionist, food service helper, and “the kitchen clean-up crew.” Bev takes the initiative in many projects such as preparing for the semi-annual rummage sale, collating town newsletters and other fundraising efforts.

### ***James Eggleston***

Jim is a long time volunteer with the Meals on Wheels Program and the Eastern Broome Senior Center. Jim enthusiastically and pleasantly performs any task without hesitation, whether that is serving meals, taking menu requests at breakfast and kitchen clean up. Often, Jim will help with early morning breakfast and then go to deliver Meals on Wheels at mid-day. Jim also volunteers to help with center fundraisers, doing critical and time consuming tasks.

## **CATTARAUGUS**

### ***Dennis Dorman***

Dennis Dorman has been a volunteer for the Cattaraugus County Retired Senior Volunteer Program for 23 years. During this time, he has served 2,506 hours volunteering for the Meals on Wheels program delivering meals to the frail, homebound elderly through the Portville Senior Nutrition and Wellness program. Last year he volunteered 179 hours. Dennis is always ready and willing to help at the nutrition site and actively helps to improve the overall lives of the seniors.

### ***Harold Sodeur***

Harold has volunteered for the Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging Retired Senior Volunteer Program for five years and has contributed 1,768 hours. Harold's service includes advocating for and preparing income taxes for low-income senior citizens and also delivering Meals on Wheels to the frail elderly through the Olean Senior Wellness and Nutrition program. He also volunteers at the Olean Senior Center as a support staff member. Harold advocates on behalf of senior citizens during tax season and provides needed services. This year he volunteered 311 hours.

# CHEMUNG

## ***Mary Beechey***

Mary joined RSVP of Chemung County in 2001. She has donated 3,863 hours of her time to serving others. Years ago, she took a class in Braille and now transcribes books for the blind. In her spare time, Mary is active with the Over-the-Counter Players performing skits at local senior homes and clubs to promote safe driving, scam alerts and health issues for our older population. She teaches children about the dangers of smoking and is also a clown in many local parades. Mary also volunteers at the Free Community Kitchen; Near Westside Neighborhood; Steel Memorial Library; and, knits hats and mittens for school children.

## ***Connie Bergh***

Connie has been a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for 16 ½ years, giving a total of 6,179 hours to helping others. For 28 years she has volunteered at St. Joseph's Hospital. She visits patients and is the facilitator of the Widow/Widowers Support Group. In 2002, Connie was awarded the Spirit Award from St. Joseph's Hospital. The Spirit Award is given to volunteers, health professionals and support staff that has made a difference in the quality of patient care at St. Joseph's and in the community. She also likes to volunteer at the Samaritan Center as an interviewer. Since 1994, Connie has been a member of the Senior Notebook Team, where she currently holds the office of Secretary. As a member of the Senior Notebook TV Program, she co-hosts a segment called "Wit & Wisdom." For over 30 years she has been a member of St. Mary's Church as well as a member of the church choir.

# COLUMBIA

## ***Donna Diehl***

For the past 16 years, Donna has organized, coordinated, and led the charge to provide free Thanksgiving dinners to individuals and their families. This true grass roots program has grown from a few

dozen dinners in the beginning to serving over 100 dinners in 2011. Starting a month before the Thanksgiving holiday, she arranges food donations, reaches out to families in her church and the community to cook donated turkeys, prepares potatoes and vegetables and makes a number of pies. Donna organizes the assembly line and recruits volunteers, oversees packaging the meals and sets tables in the Kellner Community Youth and Activity Building. For those residents unable to make it out of their homes, she arranges drivers to deliver meals to their homes.

Donna is also the organist and Music Director at the Livingston Memorial Church; helps coordinate the Germantown 300th celebration efforts by conducting 18th century compositions sung by the church choir; and directing the Southern Columbia Community Choir. She is also actively involved with the local community food pantry; served on the Germantown Town Board; and was an active volunteer for ten years for the 4th of July celebration.

### ***Noel Fair***

Noel has been a moving force in helping Columbia County seniors prepare and file their tax returns. As the site coordinator, Noel works closely with the program sponsor, AARP, the IRS, the State of New York and office for the aging to secure sites and establish a readily accessible countywide schedule of times and locations. Each year she is responsible for recruiting and training new preparers, refreshing those with prior experience and ensuring proper certification. She also arranges for laptop computers, reference materials, supplies and publicity. Noel starts to plan logistics before Thanksgiving to make sure all is ready to start preparing and submitting returns in February. With over 300 returns e-filed each season, Noel provides an important service for low-income senior taxpayers. She is also fully engaged the rest of the year as a volunteer at the library, serving as an expert resource on local history.

# DELAWARE

## ***Dr. Kenneth “Ken” Penny***

Dr. Penny is a lifelong member of the American Dental Society. To expand his community involvement, Ken took up woodworking and made toys for the Orlando Christmas Program. Dr. and Mrs. Penny presently attend the New Hope Church in Walton and are involved with the Delhi Senior Social Club. Ken has served as both President and Vice President for the Senior Council. Ken learned about the Legacy Caregiver Assistance Program, received training and now visits the homebound seniors on a regular basis. In his enthusiasm to serve, Ken has also become a medical transportation volunteer, emergency response unit installer, and finds time to travel throughout Delaware County to make sure the frail seniors are served.

## ***Helen Surry***

Helen was recognized at the Delaware County Senior Council’s annual meeting in September. Helen has been an active member of the Colchester Sr. Citizens Club for many years. She held several different offices such as President, Treasurer and is currently the Vice President. She is a faithful and active member of the Senior Council, attending meetings and participates in many of the fundraisers. She is a very active member in the Colchester Community United Methodist Church where she sits on the committee as lay leadership; for many years she has been in charge of Sunday coffee hour following worship, as well as helping with rummage and yard sales and attending Women’s Bible Study.

# DUTCHESS

## ***Theresa O’Shea***

## ***James O’Shea***

Theresa and Jim have given a lifetime of service to Dutchess County as both leaders in community organizations, as well as

being volunteers. James has served as President of the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center; Chairman of the Dutchess County Tourism Committee; Chairman of the Hudson River Valley Wine and Culinary Project; is on the Board of Directors of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, and is a multi-term Councilman in the Town of Poughkeepsie. In addition to supporting her husband in his many activities, Terri was the Executive Director of Alumnae Activities at Vassar College for more than 20 years and presently serves as the Vice President of the Poughkeepsie Library District and is Committee Chairman for the Connections Committee at Marist College's Center for Lifetime Studies.

## ERIE

### ***Ronald A. Carnevale***

Ron is the president of the West Side Business and Taxpayer's Association (WSBTA). He has been the president for the past 19 years, and during his 32 year membership, he helped raise over \$500,000 and has used these funds to fund deserving causes. Ron has been instrumental in setting up a youth center; instituting a program of scholarships for high school students; raised over \$750,000 over 30 years, in having a yearly parade - this event is the leader in the distribution of clothes and food for needy families; and, organizes the makeovers of unsafe vacant lots into environmental green and colorful gardens.

### ***Phillip Muck***

Phillip is an army veteran of the Korean War and has dedicated his time and talents to numerous organizations and projects such as: served as trustee for the Eden Library since 1989 (President 2001-2006) and was instrumental in the construction of a new library; Served on the Zoning Board of Appeals since 1980 and participated in the development of the town's Master Plan; Claddagh Commission Inc., on the Board of Directors for over 30 years; serves on the Financial Committee and was instrumental in developing homes in the community for people with developmental

disabilities; a deacon for his church for over 30 years. He serves on the church council (president, 1972), drives elderly to services, delivers Meals on Wheels, and visits shut-ins; Eden Historical Society , a trustee for 11 years and serves on the property committee ; a member of the Lions Club for over 20 years; received the Citizen of the Year award in 2002 from the Chamber of Commerce. Phillip has also been involved with the Salvation Army, Lake Shore Hospital Foundation, Lake Shore Mental Health Group, American Lung Association, Lake Shore Nursing Home and was recognized in 1987 for Exceptional Community Service by the Chamber of Commerce.

## ESSEX

### *Dennis Everleth*

Dennis is the manager of a nutrition site. He takes the seniors on outings and also helps them outside the site. He takes the responsibility of assisting the seniors any way he can. If not for Dennis' involvement, there would be a number of older individuals without needed services. He has contributed towards the goal of helping community members age in place.

## FRANKLIN

### *Pat Manchester*

Pat is an avid volunteer in her community. She spends countless hours helping to build and maintain the local playground, Rainbow Park and the memorial park. She delivers meals on wheels to local citizens and serves as the Secretary to the Board of Directors. Pat helped to organize the town's food bank, and was instrumental in starting the summer lunch program which provides a free lunch to children. She has also served for over a decade as Town Supervisor, the first woman ever elected to this office. Additionally, Pat now serves as the President of the Association of Senior Citizens in Franklin County. Throughout her life, Pat has owned and oper

ated three small businesses; a flower shop, a convenience store and a bed and breakfast.

## FULTON

### ***Grace Bevington-Eglin***

Grace has been an active volunteer in Fulton County beginning with her work at the Fulton County Infirmary and through her church. Most recently, she has been active in many community organizations and has participated in advocacy and support of the Fulton County Office for Aging. Grace holds the following offices: President of the Nick Stoner Senior Club; President of the Retired Local 925 CSEA Unit of Fulton and Montgomery Counties; President of the Fulton County Council of Senior Clubs and Centers. As President of the Fulton County Council of Senior Clubs and Centers, she represented hundreds of seniors when she spoke at a public hearing in 2011 in support of the Fulton County Office for Aging during a time when the Board of Supervisors was determining how to meet the two percent tax cap; and, a Board Member on the Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. She is active in her church and helps with its food pantry.

### ***Nancy Deuel***

Nancy is a 19 year member of the American Legion, Unit 337. She was Chaplain for three years and was a Membership Chairperson for 15 years. Nancy is active in all fundraisers and goes to the Veterans Hospital to spend time with patients. She sends packages to soldiers, provides food and gifts at Christmas, assists with Make A Wish Foundation, provides items to the Home For Women Veterans and also attends veterans conventions. Nancy's other volunteer activity included growing flowers with a friend and planting them at the Town Monument and Pavilion. She also transports a local veteran when needed. Nancy is an enrollee in the Fulton County Title V Program.

# GREENE

## ***David Battini***

David has been chosen New York State Scouter of the Year by the American Legion; Has been a member of the Greenville Volunteer Fire Company since 1970 and serves with the Fire Police at emergencies; the founder and initial first-aid trainer for the Greenville Rescue Squad in 1972; since 2007, he has been the number one responder to ambulance calls as an Advanced Intermediate EMT; conducted many classes in CPR as a certified instructor for the American Heart Association; member of the Greene County Rural Health Network; Greene County EMS Council; REMO Executive Board, serves as the Treasurer for the Greene County Paramedic Program and Chairman of the Board of Assessment Review; and, gives his time to help the seniors of the community by being a driver for Greene County Department for the Aging's homebound delivered meals.

## ***Liz Jarvis***

Liz is involved with the Greene County Department for the Aging's volunteer program; is a volunteer at the Rivertown Thrift Shop, serving many hours each week; volunteers her time to the Athens Crafter's group, who make and donate items to Greene County Domestic Violence and other community organizations; is on the RSVP Advisory Council serving on the Fundraising Committee and Recognition Day Committee; and, is a member of the RSVP Council.

# HAMILTON

## ***Sharon Grisenthwaite***

It is through Sharon's efforts that the town of Wells has an excellent food pantry available to its residents. In addition to her work in managing the food pantry, she is also a member of the Wells Seniors, Wells Garden Club, Wells Historical Society, Wells Vol

unteer Ambulance Corps, Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Hamilton County, Hamilton County Senior Citizens Council and a representative on the Warren/Hamilton Counties Office for the Aging Advisory Council. In addition to all of the activities listed, she and her husband volunteer to drive local seniors to medical appointments.

### ***Dolores Margies***

Dolores shares not only her time but a genuine love and caring for her community, both young and old. She is a member of several organizations and actively participates in all of them. She is the current president of the Wells Seniors and a past treasurer, an active member and previous Secretary of the Wells Historical Society, Wells Garden Club member and delegate to the Hamilton County Council of Senior Citizen's. In addition to all of these activities, she still makes time to participate in the morning program at Wells Central School and work on the Wells Old Home Days Parade Floats.

## **JEFFERSON**

### ***John Murray***

As an Ordained Deacon, John has been in the service of volunteering for the past 25 years. He has spent many hours volunteering at Community General Hospital, receiving several awards for the many hours of service as a support volunteer. For the past 14 years, he has been a volunteer driver for the Jefferson County Office for the Aging; and, has been an Ordained Deacon for 14 years. For the past 10 years, John has been a volunteer at the opera house and is an active volunteer at the museum.

### ***Kevin C. Nelson***

Kevin worked for the Social Security Administration as a Claims Representative from 1976 until retirement in 2007. He brought his expertise and knowledge to the Jefferson County Office for the Aging as a HIICAP volunteer in October of 2008 and later

accepted a part-time position as an HIICAP aide for the HIICAP open enrollment period. Kevin continues in this capacity every fall assisting seniors throughout the county. Kevin volunteered and served as a Board Member, President and Coach for the Redwood Youth Organization from 1991 to 1999. Kevin is also a volunteer scout leader, commissioner and counselor for the Tri-Rivers District, Longhouse Council, and Boy Scouts of America. He has been honored for his service to youth in the Scouting Program with the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award (Council designated award for distinguished service) and the Vigil Honor of the Order of the Arrow. Kevin serves as a member and Treasurer of the Theodore M. Swan Jr. Memorial Fund. The Fund is a charitable organization which supports various organizations. Kevin also serves as usher, lector, Eucharistic Minister and member of the Finance Committee for his church.

## LEWIS

### *Samuel P. Lundy*

Sam is a member of Grace Episcopal Church where he is currently is a warden and a lay reader. He is in the process of becoming an Ordained Deacon. He serves on the committee for the Stone Soup Suppers; Sam does the maintenance for the church, which includes decorating the altar. He serves as a Chaplain for the Copenhagen Fire Department and works on fundraising activities. Sam is also a member of the Memorial Committee and the Parade Committee and serves as a Fire Policeman. He serves as a crossing guard at various times. He is also involved with the Town of Denmark and Village of Croghan Court Bailiff; Town of Denmark Constable; Chairman of Copenhagen School annual meeting; lends cars to those who need a vehicle; shares produce from his vegetable garden with senior citizens and treats senior citizens to a dining out evening. For the past two years, Sam has helped out with the Lewis County Fair. As a semi-retired funeral director, Sam still helps with the business.

## LIVINGSTON

*Alice Acomb*

*Marilyn Gilbert*

*Mary Kay Hammond*

*Ethel Miller*

In 1977, these volunteers designed and implemented “For The Health of It”, a free health screening program that has become an integral component of Noyes Hospital’s Community Outreach Services. They have dedicated over 10,000 hours of service over the past 32 years providing convenient access to health screenings for blood pressure, skin cancer, blood glucose, blood pressure, body fat and diabetes risk assessment held at pharmacies, banks, churches, health fairs, festivals and supermarkets throughout the county. These volunteers provide information and assistance locating health care services, distribute education materials and refer individuals with medical needs to area physicians for follow-up. Ethel, Mary Kay, Marilyn and Alice have never missed a scheduled event during their years of service and are an extraordinary example of dedication and volunteerism.

## MONROE

*Joe Carrozzi*

Joe is a retired US Marine and is also a retiree from the City of Rochester Fire Department. He has volunteered for: St. Anthony of Padua Church – Festival Chairman and Holy Name Society President; Charlotte Community Association – Vice President; Charlotte High School Booster Club – President; Ontario Beach Park Program Committee – Chairman; Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse Historical Society; Co-Chair Rochester Firefighter’s MDA Picnic Committee; Rochester Sesquicentennial Tall Ships Committee; and, Rochester Retired Firefighter Association – President. Other awards that Joe has received include: Mayors Renaissance Award, ACT-1 Appreciation Award, Kiwanis Firefighter of the

Month Award and Charlotte-Lake Ontario Kiwanis Man of the Year Award.

### ***Rose Levin***

Over the last 16 years, Monroe County residents have benefitted greatly from the hard work that Rose Levin has accomplished as a nutritionist for the Monroe County Office for the Aging. During her distinguished career, Rose was responsible for enhancing the health of area seniors by continually improving the nutritional quality of the meals at area senior centers. Rose spent many years at both Strong Hospital and Genesee Hospital as a renal dietician. In 1996, she joined Monroe Community Hospital as a part-time nutritionist but made a full time impact on the program. Rose worked diligently to make sure area seniors had the highest nutritional standards and her dedication is a primary reason why the Monroe County Office for the Aging is so well respected around the state for nutritional wellness. She taught the importance of nutrition to the seventeen senior centers in Monroe County that participate in the nutrition program. After her many years of commitment to enriching the lives of others, Rose is retiring in order to pursue other interests. Rose is 90 years old and plans to travel and remain active in other community interests.

## **NASSAU**

### ***Irwin Plotkin***

In 2007, Irwin created and continues to chair the Village of East Hills Senior Activities Committee which works closely with local businesses, the school district and elected officials to develop special programs for 60+ residents. Today more than 300 seniors participate in ongoing activities such as current events discussions, special performances, barbeques, card and bingo games, dinners at local restaurants, speakers, brunches, car rallies and museum trips. Village officials indicate that he has created a great sense of community and enriched the lives of many residents. His activities can easily serve as a model for other villages to follow.

# NIAGARA

## ***Martin Horanburg***

Marty is “the voice” of Newfane, as the announcer of their high school football and basketball games, as well as all the town’s parades. He is also a past Chief and is a current volunteer at the Miller Hose Fire Company. Marty is a board member at Eastern Niagara Hospital; a member of the local Lions Club and the Newfane Golden Agers Senior Group.

## ***Louis Molisani***

Louis has been a volunteer for numerous organizations such as the Niagara County Hospice, St. John’s Outreach Center and the Dale Association. He plays and teaches bridge at the Dale Association. You can often find him at the nutrition site enjoying conversation with the other seniors. Prior to his retirement, he owned his own business and is still well respected among the many customers and fellow businesses in the community. Louis is also a singer for the local Glee Club.

# ONEIDA

## ***Shirin Rashid***

Shirin is an immigrant citizen from Pakistan. She arrived here in 1994 and volunteers for several local organizations. She has been active in the American Red Cross disaster relief in teaching CPR, baby-sitting skills and first aid. At the Central New York Association for the Blind, she learned how to type Braille and uses that skill to produce such things as church bulletins and instruction manuals. At St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, her volunteer activities have included sewing, helping out with the bazaar, raising money for extra needs of patients and has worked in the Gift Shop for several years. Shirin also volunteers at the Munson Williams Art and Community Center. Shirin is a qualified school teacher and had worked for many years as an 8th grade teacher in Lahore, Pakistan. In Pakistan, she was a pioneer in computer education for girls.

# ONONDAGA

## ***Doris Jackson***

Doris has a long and admirable history of community leadership, social justice and tireless advocacy for equality. She has been a volunteer at the Dunbar Association for over seventeen years, identifying and assisting seniors in need. She is currently a Eucharistic Minister for her Church, a position which calls on her to visit the sick, provide baskets for those in need and advocate in Albany for social justice. Throughout her working life, Doris was a leader and union steward, someone who led by example and encouraged others to stand up for what is right in the face of social injustice.

# ORANGE

## ***Patricia Bodnar***

Patricia Bodnar turned a horrific tragedy in 1990 into a personal mission to prevent others from sharing her experience as a crime victim. After her husband, Alex, was killed during a break-in, Pat put her grief and sorrow to work in programs to prevent crime and help crime victims recover. It was a natural fit to become active in MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), because it was their common purpose to prevent tragedy. Pat has also fought tirelessly for rights for victims through the Crime Victims Assistance Program in Orange County where she organizes an annual vigil. Both in local colleges and in local prisons, Pat shares her story with criminal justice students and convicted criminals to show the impact violent crime has on ordinary life. Pat also volunteers with AHRC, a local agency serving developmentally disabled individuals. Pat is a Leadership Orange graduate and has been honored by the Tribute to Women of Achievement of Orange County.

## ***Betty Jurgens***

Betty gives most of her time to the homeless, economically disadvantaged, soldiers and sick children. In addition to performing “hands-on” work at the Newburgh Ministry, where she has col

lected and organized clothing and household goods for the poor for over 20 years, Betty also does outreach presentations for the Ministry to gain the support of service clubs and other groups. Betty has been active for almost a decade in "Operation Shoebox" which sends "care packages" to active duty soldiers overseas. Betty volunteers to help first graders with reading and writing at a local school and also helps to organize book sales for her local library. An active member of the fairly new Cornwall Historical Society, Betty has written two books on local history and is donating the profits to the Save Darfur Coalition. Betty has raised money for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital for three decades by organizing events and selling her husband's handmade gift boxes at the Cornwall Fall Festival. Betty is also active in her church.

## ORLEANS

### *Michael Paduchak*

Michael is a decorated combat veteran who served in World War II. At the age of 86, he continues to farm 23 acres of apple trees and continues to be active in many civic groups. He served 32 years as Kendall Town Supervisor. He was the bookkeeper to the town for 46 years. Michael is presently Chairman of the Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District; member of the Oak Orchard Watershed Board; member of the Orleans/Genesee County Community Action, which he has been a member since the association was formed - serving several years as Chairman. He has also served almost a year on the Orleans County Advisory Council Board. He is also a charter member of the Supervisors/Legislators Association of Orleans County and was instrumental in forming this association. He also is an alternate member on the Kendall Republican Committee. He is a lifetime member of the Kendall Volunteer Fire Department with over 60 years of membership.

## OTSEGO

### ***Dorothy Manley***

Dorothy has been active in senior activities for over 20 years. She is an active member of three senior clubs serving different leadership roles in each and has been the representative to the Otsego County Council of Senior Citizens since 1991. Dorothy transports her friends and neighbors to doctor's appointments, shopping and social events. Dorothy is committed to historical preservation in Otsego County.

## PUTNAM

### ***Nick Mucciarone***

Nick served in the military during the Korean Conflict and is a member of the color guard for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He has been an RSVP volunteer for over 12 years. Nick has been the president of the Carmel Senior Citizens for nine years. He drives patients to medical appointments and volunteers for the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, Office for Aging Advisory Board, Rosary Hill Nursing Home, 4-H and Salvation Army.

### ***Marie Zarcone***

Marie is a member of the American Heart Association and coordinates the Heart-to-Heart Ball. She is presently involved in the Citizens Advisory Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Historian's Office, president of the Putnam Valley Seniors and member of the Office for Aging Advisory Board. Marie is involved in planning the fourth annual Senior Citizen's Health Fair. She was also a member of the Putnam Valley School Board, member of S.C.O.R.E. and the Putnam County Charter Commission.

## ROCKLAND

### *Margaret McKee*

Margaret never misses an opportunity to advocate for her senior peers. She is constantly looking for ways to involve seniors in intellectual and stimulating activities to keep their minds active and add joy to their lives. She works closely with the Pearl River Library to provide community room space for their meetings where they have programs such as a book discussion group.

### *Maybelle Twohie*

Maybelle has been an outstanding volunteer for people with visual impairments. She chairs the Lions Walkathon “Journey for Sight” and raises money for Guiding Eyes for the Blind so that blind students are taught to care for and live with a guide dog. She also adopts platoons in Iraq and Afghanistan “Operation Overseas” where she sends packages to local servicemen and women from Rockland. In addition, Maybelle also visits veterans in nursing homes remembering World War II and Desert Storm veterans.

## ST. LAWRENCE

### *Mary Long*

Mary has been an active member for many years with the Colton –Pierrepont Senior Racquetters Club and Colton Fire Department. She is treasurer of Racquette Valley Fish and Game Club, Secretary and Treasurer of the St. Lawrence County ATV Association, Secretary of the Sunday Rock ATV Club and Secretary of the local Amvet’s Auxiliary Post 262. She is very involved with her church, where she is a lector and a member of the Altar Rosary Society. She is the event organizer for the Colton Winterfest Health Fair. In addition to civic involvements, Mary is a caregiver providing personal transportation to homebound older adults to medical appointments, shopping sites and recreational activities. She also provides personal care assistance to local older adults who have no family support.

### ***Elaine Porter***

Elaine is a long standing member and past secretary of the Colton–Pierrepont Senior Racquetters Club and the Russell Senior Club. She is also an active member of the North Country Chapter of New York StateWide Senior Action Council and for many years has been an active board member on the Office for the Aging Advisory Council. She is a strong advocate for many older adults within her rural community; she provides friendly visits to the homebound, many times sharing a meal and participating in a friendly card game. Through her local church, she volunteers with the annual Christmas Child Program to provide miscellaneous needed items for low income children. She has also helped the sick, by coordinating with local grocers to provide food items for those who cannot afford and are unable to get out.

## **ST. REGIS**

### ***Grace LaFrance Day***

Grace LaFrance Day was born on the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation. She grew up by the Raquette River and has told her family many stories of her youth and how her family enjoyed each season and celebrated the holidays with high anticipation as they knew they would be eating foods that were only served at that time and would be seeing relatives from far and near. In 1981, she worked at the local Headstart with the Foster Grandparent Program as a Tota (Mohawk word for both grandmother and grandfather). She retired in 2005 at the great age of 96.

## **SARATOGA**

### ***Theodore “Ted” Monsour***

Ted delivers meals to shut-ins and packages and serves meals in the congregate meal site. As the substitute custodian at the Moreau Community Center, Ted takes over the duties of caretaker for the large building, as well as picking up food to be distributed to the

community. Ted helps with the annual garage and antique sales. He volunteers his cooking skills for the monthly dinners, luncheons and breakfasts. Every Thursday, Ted is the Bingo caller at the Center. Outside the Center, Ted donates blood regularly and he collects aluminum tabs for veterans. He is a lector for two churches. Ted also plans and prepares dinners for the Knights of Columbus and other fundraising breakfasts and dinners for needy causes. Ted's good deeds also include shoveling sidewalks for neighbors, picking up mail, giving rides and distributing his garden produce. Ted gives so much of himself to his community and to others in need. There is no doubt in our minds that Ted is deserving of this recognition.

### ***Pat Peck***

Pat has been a community leader for many years serving as the following: volunteer at Brookside Museum; Heritage Hunters Newsletter Editor; teaches genealogy at Schuylerville Library and Brookside Museum; teaches Oste-Exercise at Saratoga Springs Senior Center; and, is treasurer/membership chair for the Old Saratoga Historical Association. Her past activities included: Sharp and Spicy 4-H Club Leader; Secretary of NYS Agriculture Society; church lecturer; president of the Old Saratoga Historical Association; member of the town Republican Committee; Senior Citizen Exercise Club leader; State Cooperative Extension Board; board member of Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council; and, Saratoga County Dairy Princess Program.

## **SCHENECTADY**

### ***John Karl***

John has been an active volunteer in the community for over 30 years. Most recently, he has been a key volunteer with the Friends of Schenectady Public Library, The Home Furnishing Program, the Ellis Hospital Foundation and many other community agencies. John serves as a leader and inspiration to over 700 volunteers

within the Schenectady County Public Library, working tirelessly to enhance the goals of the library. He has over 32 years of service within the New York State Public Education system, and utilizes his knowledge to inspire others. He has also dedicated years of service to his church serving as President, Elder, Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, Deacon of Education Worship and Finance.

### ***Marsha Mortimore***

Marsha is a contributing member of several community organizations that span the spectrum from the League of Women Voters, YWCA and the Schenectady Silhouette's, a civic organization that awards educational scholarships to students of color who are economically disadvantaged. She recently organized a collection of needed supplies for people in Schoharie County that were affected by Hurricane Irene.

## **SCHOHARIE**

### ***Carol Coltrain***

Carol led the county office for the aging for almost 20 years and is a local pastor. It was these experiences that helped her to reach out and assist her fellow residents when Hurricane Irene came and brought wide spread devastation. Carol rallied volunteers (her "angels") to assist with the immediate needs of mudding out, donation coordination, volunteer coordination and a daily feeding collaboration. She continues recovery work today and is committed to bringing her community back as long as it takes. In her spare time, she continues to lead a volunteer group that assists seniors with non-flood unmet needs.

### ***Dorothy Klenow***

Dorothy is 91 years old. She retired from farming and served as a nurses' aide. She then became a telephone reassurance caller for the county office for the aging. She has been in this position for the past 15 years. Dorothy has had contact with dozens of clients. Dorothy goes out of her way to stay in touch and see that needs are met.

# SCHUYLER

## ***Barbara Berghoff***

Since joining RSVP in mid-May, 2005, Barbara has volunteered more than 4,160 hours at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, the Schuyler County Office for the Aging, the Schuyler County Historical Society and the Montour Falls Memorial Library. She has served, or currently serves, on the OFA Advisory Committee, the Schuyler-Yates RSVP Program Advisory Committee and the Schuyler County Environmental Management Council. She also volunteers at one of the OFA congregate meal sites. Barbara is a strong advocate on senior issues as well as cheerleader for other seniors promoting their involvement.

## ***Beaver Dams United Methodist Church***

The Beaver Dams United Methodist Church (BDUMC) recently responded to a significant need in Schuyler County by starting a Medical Equipment Loan Program. This is free and open to the public. Members of the congregation worked to clean-up, secure and prepare space within the church basement for donations which they began accepting in December 2011. Thanks to a sizable donation from a local pharmacy, the Church has a stock of wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. Two seniors within the congregation have volunteered their time to facilitate this loan program including the creation of an excel spreadsheet to list and track loan equipment. The BDUMC has served their community in other ways including hosting a Thursday morning community coffee hour that promotes fellowship for all residents as well as a Vacation Bible school each summer. In addition, they have graciously allowed office for the aging to host educational presentations and recreational events in their fellowship hall.

## STEUBEN

### ***Lyn Chadwick***

Lyn is a retired military RN who is active in Red Cross Blood drives, the Board of the Fred and Harriet Taylor Memorial Library and local politics. She is a Bone Builders leader and is very active in church work. Lyn is also a volunteer for Project Care, a volunteer program that assists frail seniors to remain in their homes. In 2011, Lyn's quick intervention for a recipient who had been scammed out of about \$12,000 resulted in \$9,000 being returned.

### ***Raymond F. Cotter***

Raymond has made himself available to the Steuben County Office for the Aging for many years. Former Director Linda Tetor had often called upon Ray to do start-up work, or fix some program in disarray and even refine computer information. His latest volunteer assignment is to assist the Corning office with insurance advisements.

## SUFFOLK

### ***Robert Casey***

Robert has been an active volunteer with RSVP since 1998 and has given over 6000 hours of his energy, wisdom and time throughout Suffolk County. He has helped to facilitate relationships between pre-schooler's and seniors at an intergenerational day care program. Robert leads wellness programs at senior centers and has assisted with falls prevention programs in the county. He also volunteers at a local hospital assisting visitors.

## SULLIVAN

### ***Priscilla Bassett***

Priscilla works tirelessly not only for the senior citizens of Sullivan County, but outside the county as well. A librarian for over

35 years, she is a member and volunteer at her local library. She is a member of the NAACP and Sullivan County Peace & Justice, the Association for the Study of African American Life & History in Sullivan County, serves on the boards of the Statewide Senior Action Council, Governor's Advisory Committee, and Sullivan County Office For the Aging Advisory Boards. Priscilla is co-chair of the Sullivan County Senior Legislative Action Committee (SLAC). Because she thought it was time that seniors picked up the "slack", SLAC has given seniors a voice to speak out on senior issues on the federal, state, and county levels. Without individuals like her, seniors would not have the advocacy and representation that comes from someone so devoted to her community and peers.

### ***Geraldine "Gerri" Cox***

Gerri is an active member of her church and has contributed many hours documented and undocumented in volunteering. She spends countless hours driving residents to doctor appointments and running errands. She delivers meals to the homebound through the Sullivan County Office for the Aging nutrition program. She serves on the board of the Nutrition Advisory Council and does fundraisers. She also serves on the "Alice Kreiter Senior Prom" Committee with the local Boys and Girls Club. This prom is held yearly for residents to attend free of charge for a night of dinner and dancing.

## **TOMPKINS**

### ***Carol John, Monte May, and Ardie Bennet of the "Wonderful Wheelchairs Program"***

"Wonderful Wheelchairs" is a group created by Carol John and staffed by longtime volunteers Monte May and Ardie Bennett. They clean and refurbish wheelchairs for nursing home residents as well as community members. Through this program old, poorly operating wheelchairs are repaired and made available to persons who need them. To date, these volunteers have refurbished over

200 wheelchairs for Cayuga Ridge nursing facility, Finger Lakes Independence Center and private individuals. Their services have improved the quality of life of hundreds of individuals who utilize and rely on wheelchairs for their day-to-day activities.

### ***Sis Johnson***

Sis will soon reach her 50 years of volunteering for the American Red Cross. Sis has served in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for 19 years. She volunteers with the Varna Community Association, the Varna United Methodist Church, as well as the Varna Volunteer Fire Department. Sis's other volunteer efforts include the Salvation Army; Greater Ithaca Activities Center; Dryden Class of 1954; Groton Alumni Association Planning Committee and the Tompkins County Board of Elections. Sis also regularly donates fresh produce from her garden to the Caroline Food Pantry.

## **ULSTER**

### ***John William Scott***

John is a lifetime resident of the Town of Shawangunk where he was Town Supervisor from 1986 to 1989. After retiring from IBM, John started the Walker Valley Senior Group and has volunteered endless hours on a weekly basis. He excels in planning and preparing for parties, events and special trips. His contribution to the community during the floods of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee is something to be recognized and rewarded. He currently visits nursing homes and hospitals, helping seniors return to their own homes. John's outreach to the sick has been his passion.

### ***Marjorie Louise Robinson***

Marge is a retiree from the Benedictine Hospital after 24 years. She volunteers daily and currently serves as Treasurer of their senior group. With her high energy, humor and caring nature, she is known as "The Cornerstone of the Building" to all 91 residents. Marge is a lifetime member of the Women's Guild Reformed Church. Marge has devoted much effort and time to the City of

Kingston Safety Council, attending meetings at city hall.

## WARREN

### *Gus Nuskern*

Gus has been the Chair of the Queensbury Senior Citizens, Inc. For the past 23 years, he has volunteered for the Grandparents Breakfast at the Queensbury School and has been the coordinator for this event. Gus is actively involved in organizing the details of the breakfast as well as recruiting, training and managing all the volunteers. This is not a one day event; breakfast is served to QES children and their grandparent for five days and the team serves up 3,000 breakfasts.

### *Dominic Rinaldi*

Dominic volunteers his time and energy in various ways. He is a very active member of the Queensbury Senior Citizen's, and in addition to representing the club on the Warren County Council of Senior Citizen's, he serves on a number of committees. A brief list of his contributions include delivering groceries to the GF Food Pantry for the last 20+ years, running a 50/50 raffle to raise scholarship funds, collecting and delivering items to be sent to soldiers serving overseas and transporting others to club activities, medical appointments and grocery shopping.

## WESTCHESTER

### *Daniel Sambol*

After a long and distinguished career in social work, Daniel became a community activist focusing on improving the lives of seniors. In the past, he was Chairman of the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Older Americans Act Advisory Council; an officer on the board of the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services; a board member of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program of the Mental Health As-

sociation; serves as a member of the NYS Assembly Advisory on Aging and is also a member of the Governor's Advisory Council; and is on the Task Force on Aging of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies in New York City.

### ***Bernice Spreckman***

Bernice has been a Westchester County Legislator, 14th District, since 1995 and is Chairperson of the Westchester County Council for Seniors and the Older American's Act Advisory Council. Advocacy for seniors is the hallmark of Bernice's career. She initiated the senior Shopper's Shuttle and the Adopt-a-Senior Citizen Center Program. Bernice leads an annual lobby day in Albany for Westchester seniors; has also organized an information drive to make seniors aware of the "Balanced Billing" law to protect them for medical overcharges; works to lower prescription drug prices for the disabled and aging; and works with the NYS Attorney General to eradicate elder abuse.

## **YATES**

### ***John Moeller***

From 1988 to 2005, John volunteered his time and car for Yates County Office for the Aging medical transportation. A Retired Senior Volunteer Program member since 1989, John has received Bronze, Silver, Gold and Lifetime awards for 9,855 volunteer hours plus. His diverse volunteering includes: clerical assistant, receptionist, friendly visitor, caregiver respite, Home Delivered Meals driver and Keuka College test proctor. John is 90 years old and makes Telephone Reassurance calls to isolated seniors.

### ***William "Bill" Wormuth, Sr.***

Bill began working for the Yates County Office for the Aging in 2007 as a driver for the Transportation Program. In 2011, Bill began as a volunteer for our Special Event Advisory Committee where he helps plan our special events. Bill then agreed to become a Phone Friend where he makes calls to isolated seniors. He

also makes reminder phone calls about transportation trips and will ride along with people who may need a companion. Bill also calls bingo each week at a local nursing home and is the president of the Senior Citizen's Group at the Moose Lodge.









New York State  
Office for the Aging

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