

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced the names of the distinguished veterans who will serve on his Veterans Advisory Committee and assist Arcuri with federal veterans' legislation and outreach to local veterans.

"This Memorial Day, I am honored to announce the great veterans who will join me to help craft the best possible policy for our nation's veterans and be my liaisons to the local veterans community," said Arcuri. "I am committed to honoring our veterans by supporting them in Washington and here at home. I was proud to vote for the largest increase in veterans' health care in our history and honored to meet with local veterans when they came to Washington to tour the WWII memorial. I look forward to working with these courageous men and women who have so valiantly served our country."

"In your capacity, you will be a sounding board for me as we discuss these issues in Washington, and a source for information, advice and suggestions for how to best serve Upstate veterans and their families, as well as guide the future of our country's military policy," Arcuri wrote to the members of the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Biographies of 24th Congressional District's Veterans Advisory Committee:

Broome County:

Mr. Thomas Ravener, Endicott, New York
• United States Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer

Cayuga County:

Mr. Nicholas Valenti, Director, Cayuga County Veterans Service Agency, Auburn, New York

- United States Marine Corps, 1969-1970
- Affiliated with numerous veterans groups: American Legion-37 years; Marine Corps League-23 years; Forty and Eight-22 years; Veterans of Foreign Wars-27 years; Vietnam Veterans of America-9 years; Korean War Veterans-3 years
- On the Canandaigua VA Medical Center Citizens Advisory Committee and member of 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry New York Armory National Guard Club

Mr. Jeffrey Green, Auburn, New York

- Served in the United States Army as an Army Ranger
- Member of the New York State Army National Guard
- Completed Ranger and Airborne Schools
- Parole Officer and Certified Police/Peace Officer Instructor

Mr. James Hutchinson, Auburn, New York

- Son is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy
- Member of Congressman James T. Walsh's Air Force Committee when Congressman Walsh represented Auburn
- Former Auburn City Councilperson

Chenango County:

Mrs. Patricia C. Marso, Oxford, New York

- Recruited by the American Red Cross as a nurse in the United States Army in March of 1945-was discharged in September of 1945
- 45 year member of the American Legion of New York State
- Member of the American Legion Legislative Council-also Sixth District Legislative Chairman for the American Legion

Mr. RC B. Woodford, Clerk, Chenango County Board of Supervisors, Oxford, New York

- Member of Congressman Boehlert's Academy Advisory Committee for four years

Cortland County:

Brigadier General Philip A. Tennant, USAF Retired, Cortland, New York

- Retired in July of 2000 as Vice-Commander of the Northeast Air Defense Sector in Rome
- Native of Cortland, attended Cortland schools, University of Buffalo graduate, attended Air Command and Staff College, Air War College
- Co-pilot of B-52 in Vietnam-flew 200 combat missions-awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit, numerous other decorations
- Since retiring, volunteers for Disabled American Veterans

Ms. Christine Gregory, Adjunct Professor, SUNY Cortland, professor, Tompkins Cortland Community College, teacher, Cortland Junior-Senior High School, Cortland, New York

- Coordinated her class sending toiletries, batteries, other essential daily necessities to soldiers serving in Iraq in 2007
- Works with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans in Cortland to discuss issues of concerns with veterans locally

Mr. Carl Bullock, Director, Cortland County Veterans Service Agency, Cortland, New York

- Served 23 years in the United States Army; Vietnam veteran
- Also served overseas in Germany and South Korea

Dr. Frank Burdick, Cortland, New York

- United States Army-1952-1955
- 1962-1964, 1966-1996: Professor of History at SUNY Cortland
- Developed one of the first college courses on the Vietnam Conflict
- 1991-taught at the United States Military Academy summer program

Professor Allen C. Mooney, Truxton, New York

- Vietnam veteran
- Chair, Department of Art and Art History, SUNY Cortland

Herkimer County:

Mr. Robert W. Ritz, Little Falls, New York

- Graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy
- Served in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve during the Korean Conflict and the Cold

War

- Worked with General Dynamics and General Electric on Navy programs

Mr. Christopher L. Bouck, Director, Herkimer County Veterans Service Agency, Herkimer, New York

- Drafted into the United States Navy in 1968-served in Vietnam and was discharged in 1972
- After graduating from Herkimer County Community College, enlisted in the United States Army in 1977 and served as an engineer-retired in 1993
- Vice President of New York State County Veteran Service Officer Association
- Member of: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 827, Fleet Reserve Association, American Legion Iliion Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4915 in Herkimer
- Has a service connected disability-combat related

Mr. Benjamin F. Scalise, Jr., Poland, New York

- 21 year member of the New York State Army National Guard
- Served in Iraq in 2004

Mr. Greg A. Santry, Little Falls, New York

- Advocate for veterans, assisting them with health benefits, disability claims, and other needs
- Worked with and assisted numerous veterans as a director of human resources

Oneida County:

Captain Duane E. Willsey, USAF Retired, Clinton, New York

- Entered Air Force as an enlisted servicemen, went to college and became an officer
- Active duty 6 years, navigator, radar navigator and instructor on B-52's; served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm
- Air Force Reserves 9 years

Mr. Joseph Perrone, Director, Oneida County Veterans Service Agency, Utica, New York

- United States Air Force, 1966-1970
- Commander, Oneida County American Legion, 2000-2001; Commander, Henry P. Smith Post 24 of the American Legion, 1992-1995
- B-52 Mohawk Valley Museum President, 1999-2005

- Rome Honor America Days Parade Coordinator, 1991-present

Mr. Michael Corn, Barneveld, New York

- Member of Army National Guard, 1969-1975
- Teacher in New Hartford Central School System, 1970-present
- Currently on leave from teaching to serve as a trustee for the New York State Teacher's Retirement System; also a Board Member for the New York State United Teachers
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Mr. Peter Acquaviva, Chair, Veterans Advisory Committee, New Hartford, New York

- Father was a 30 year member of the New York State National Guard, serving in the Persian Gulf-died due to service connected illness
- A podiatrist, Mr. Acquaviva has participated in the Veterans Medical Insurance program throughout his 20 plus years of practice
- Graduate of Hamilton College and Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine

Ms. Mary Erin O'Connor Blair, New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, Utica, New York

- Served in the United States Navy for 26 years-Chief Petty Officer
- Has been a New York State Veterans Counselor for 13 years
- Member of: American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Fleet Reserve Association, Women in Military Service in America, Leatherstocking WAVES and WAVES National, and Disabled American Veterans

Ms. Anna Giacobbe, Barneveld, New York

- Educator in secondary and postsecondary education for over 20 years
- Father was career United States Coast Guard member
- Served on Congressman Sherwood Boehlert's Academy Committee for 20 years
- Active in community organizations and Town of Trenton government

Mr. Phillip Eastman, Vice Chair, Veterans Advisory Committee, New Hartford, New York

- Cornell University-Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
- United States Army-1954-1956
- Lifetime educator and administrator, and school board member
- Member-New Hartford American Legion Post 1376
- Chair-Congressman Sherwood Boehlert's Academy Advisory Committee

Mr. James G. Hill, New Harford, New York

- Graduate-Texas Military Institute
- United States Marine Corps during World War II
- Enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from Creighton University and Hastings College after World War II, serving in the Army until 1971
- Earned the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (three times), Meritorius Service Medal, and many others
- Various leadership roles at Herkimer County Community College

Mr. Peter A. Scalise, III, New Hartford, New York

- United States Army-1987-1991
- In Desert Storm
- Earned the Bronze Star Medal

Mr. Joseph T. Fraccola, Utica, New York

- United States Army-Vietnam veteran, wounded in combat
- Member of: Military Order of the Purple Heart (Department of New York Junior Vice Commander-2004-present, Commander, Central New York Chapter 490, 2004-present), American Legion Utica Post 229, Veterans of Foreign War Post 9591, AMVETS Post 384, Disabled American Veterans 82, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 944
- Serves on: Oneida County Veterans Council, Oneida County WWII Memorial Trip, Utica Memorial Day Parade Committee

Ms. Mildred M. Swarts, Rome, New York

- United States Air Force for three years-nurse
- Taught nursing through BOCES and at SUNY IT for many years
- Wrote the grant to establish a JROTC program at Rome Free Academy

Captain Mitchell G. Ford, United States Army-Retired, Utica, New York

- Served in Desert Storm and Bosnia
- Attended John F. Kennedy School of Special Warfare
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster survey coordinator for flooding in the Susquehanna River Basin

Mr. Tony Kimball, Rome, New York

- Retired military
- Co-founder of the USAF JROTC program in the Rome Free Academy

- Director of the Greater Rome-Utica Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
- Coordinator, 465th Fighter Interceptor Squadron Griffiss Air Force Base 50 year Homecoming, September 17-19, 2007

Lt. Paul Rayhill, United States Navy-Retired, New Hartford, New York

- 1987 graduate of the United States Naval Academy
- Naval Aviator-flew H-3 Sea Kings and H-46 Sea Knights
- Retired in 1994

Mr. Glen A. Carroll, Waterville, New York

- United States Army
- 1980 graduate of the United States Military Academy

Mr. Robert B. Hyde, Utica, New York

- United States Navy-Honorable Discharge with the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class

Ontario County:

Ms. Susan Kellogg, New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, Fairport, New York

- Served in the United States Army
- Has been a New York State Veterans Counselor 1982-present
- Member-Finger Lakes Veterans Advisory Committee

Otsego County:

Petty Officer Second Class Pamela J. Tanner, USN Retired, New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, Oneonta, New York

- Member of the United States Navy 1986-2001
- Worked in Oswego, Onondaga, Otsego and Delaware Counties assisting veterans at county and state agencies
- Member of American Legion Post 358

- Very dedicated to ensuring veterans receive prompt, competent medical care at any VA facility and that benefits are processed in a timely manner

Mr. Tex Seamon, Otsego County Veterans Director, Cooperstown, New York

- Member of United States Air Force and Navy, specializing in Nuclear Weapons in the Air Force and a Gunner's Mate-Missiles in the Navy
- Active in the American Legion Post 616 in Richfield Springs and AMVETS Post 706

Mrs. Dorothy Caswell, Oneonta, New York

- Served in the United States Foreign Service in Tunis, Tunisia, 1956-1961
- Otsego County Public Health Partnership
- Otsego County Tourism Bureau
- Member of Congressman Sherwood Boehlert's Academy Advisory Committee

Seneca County:

Mr. William D. Leonard, Waterloo, New York

- Member-United States Air Force, 1961-1965
- Educator-Mynderse Academy, Finger Lakes Community College
- Local and country government-1976-1980-Councilperson-Town of Junius; 1992-1996 Town of Junius Supervisor and Seneca County Supervisor

Tompkins County:

Mr. Edmund D. Tenorio, New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, Ithaca, New York

- 27 year member of the United States Army
- Veterans Service Office for 14 years

Tioga County:

Captain Jack B. Howey, USA Retired, Director, Tioga County Veterans Service Agency, Owego, New York

- 27 year military career from 1947-1974: Active duty Army, New York Army National Guard, and Army Reserve
- Veteran of Korean Conflict
- Dedicated to ensuring transportation for veterans is readily available to go to VA clinics, Medical Centers, and for treatment

Outside of District (Regional Representatives for Service Academies):

Captain Douglas H. Storey, United States Navy, Retired, Syracuse, New York

- Graduate of Syracuse University, commissioned as Ensign in 1957
- Antisubmarine operations in the Atlantic Ocean in avionics, maintenance, communications, with P2V Neptune, P3A Orion, and other aircraft
- Naval Air Reserve
- Blue and Gold Officer for the United States Naval Academy, responsible for 33 counties in Upstate New York and Pennsylvania, assisting in the admissions and Congressional nominations process
- Volunteers for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Syracuse
- Son is a 1998 graduate of the Naval Academy

Colonel Nancy Stevens, United States Army Reserves, Manlius, New York

- 26 years of service in the Army on active duty and in the Army Reserves
- 1981 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point
- Currently assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve with the Directorate of Admissions for the Military Academy
- Numerous awards, decorations and accommodations throughout her career, including the Bronze Star Medal and several Army Commendation Medals

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