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## **Capital Region Military Day at the Capitol**

Albany, NY – Today at the Capitol, the Senate and Assembly recognized the important missions that the Capital Region military carry out in support of our national security, as well as the positive impact the military has on our communities, economy and quality of life. This day of appreciation is jointly sponsored by Senator Neil Breslin and Assembly Angelo Santabarbara.

Joining several members of the Capital Region military at the Capitol was the United Military Affairs Council (UMAC). UMAC, a program of the Capital Region Chamber seeks to highlight the importance of the military presence in the Capital Region and ensure its long-term viability and success. UMAC also strives to increase public knowledge of the contributions made by military units in the Capital Region, all of which impact the global, national, state and regional economy.

The military installations supported by UMAC that were recognized on Military Day include the 109<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Stratton Air National Guard Base; the U. S. Army's Watervliet Arsenal; the Navy Reserve Center Schenectady; the New York Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion; and the Navy Officer Recruiting Station Albany, as well as other military units located within the Capital Region.

"I am proud to sponsor the United Military Affairs Council of the Capital Region today as we gather to recognize the indispensable role our region's military installations play in promoting the security and economic prosperity of our communities. Several of these installations—the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, the Navy Officer Recruiting Station Albany, and the Navy Reserve Center Schenectady—are in my Senate district, and it is my privilege to represent so many dedicated service members and their families in the New York State Senate." said Senator Neil Breslin.

"Having served in the US Army Reserve, it's a tremendous honor to host Capital Region Military Day," said Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, who serves on the State Assembly's Committee on Veterans' Affairs and is the Assembly Sponsor of Capital Region Military Day. "The dedicated members of our nation's armed forces who call the Capital Region their home are pillars of our communities and Capital Region Military Day highlights the importance of the local military installations, where they serve," Assemblyman Santabarbara added. "These local military installations are important to not only protecting us, but also supporting our local economies, our culture and our way of life."

Mark Eagan, President and CEO, Capital Region Chamber, said, "The Capital Region is the proud home to several military installations and units. Through the Unified Military Affairs Council, the Capital Region

Chamber supports our military and highlights their importance to our economy, communities and quality of life. I would like to thank Senator Breslin, Assemblyman Santabarbara and the entire Capital Region Legislative Delegation for hosting UMAC and our region's military at the Capitol today. I'd also like to thank Price Chopper/Market 32 and Marshall & Sterling for their generous financial support of UMAC."

"These military units do more than protect our state and nation and way of life, they are an important and positive part of our community contributing more than \$1 billion a year to the Capital Region's economy and supporting thousands of jobs in the 49<sup>th</sup> Senate District and across the Capital Region," said Senator Jim Tedisco. "Today, we're shining the spotlight on the everyday American heroes who work at our bases – the best, the brightest, the most compassionate fighting force for good on Earth, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces."

"Capital Region Military Day is all about gratitude. Gratitude for the protection provided by the men and women staffing our critical installations. Gratitude for their commitment to national defense and homeland security, and gratitude for their impact on our regional economy and local communities. The 43rd Senate District and the entire Capital Region is stronger for their sacrifices. As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, I look forward to our continued work supporting our local servicemembers," said Senator Jake Ashby.

Assemblymember John T. McDonald III said, "The Capital Region has been fortunate to have such strong and viable military entities in the area that are major employers and contributors to our communities. They are a valuable part of our economy, yet also play a critical role in protecting our freedoms in this country that we so sincerely value."

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy said, "The Capital Region's military installations and training facilities are a vital tool for training our nation's armed forces; and they play a vital role in our region's economy and community life. I welcome the Unified Military Affairs Council and service members to the Capitol and commend them for their mission to increase public and legislative awareness of the contributions of these installations."

"I am proud and honored to welcome to the Capitol the men and women who serve at our military installations throughout the Capital Region, along with the United Military Affairs Council (UMAC), to highlight the invaluable service they provide not only to our nation but also within our communities," said Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh. "The local impact of these units is felt within neighborhoods, businesses and schools and play a major role in our success at home as well as abroad."

"Whether here at home or abroad, our military plays a quintessential role in providing a level order and constant measure of stability that ensures all who are free can live a life as they so choose. The presence of multiple branches that stretches from the Capital Region all the way up into the North Country, provide a foundation of community and culture that provides lasting positive impacts on our local economies, schools, and civic institutions. We are forever grateful and are proud to have them as our neighbors," said Assemblyman Matthew Simpson.

More information on UMAC can be found at [www.capitalregionchamber.com/military-affairs](http://www.capitalregionchamber.com/military-affairs).

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