

## **Citizens Preparedness**

[Citizen preparedness class scheduled in Lowville:](#)  
Rome Daily Sentinel, May 22, 2026

## **Emergency Response**

[New York National Guard Fights for 9/11 Benefits \(audio\):](#)  
WXHC, May 27, 2026

## **History**

[Stories of perseverance, bravery and sacrifice \(Youtube video\):](#)  
WRGB, May 25, 2026

## **Joint Task Force Empire Shield**

[NYPD Or National Guard? Jewish Activists Debate What Level Security Is Needed At Israel Day Parade:](#)  
Yeshiva World, May 25, 2026

[Jewish leader calls on Hochul to send in National Guard for NYC Israel Day Parade:](#)  
New York Post, May 24, 2026

## **New York Army National Guard**

[U.S. Casualties in Iran War Rise Amid Ongoing Hostilities and Controversy Surrounding Official Counts:](#)  
SSBCrack News, ( The Intercept) May 26, 2026

[City of Yelm, community members remember fallen heroes during Memorial Day gathering:](#)  
Nisqually Valley News, May 26, 2026

[News10NBC honors local military personnel killed in the line of duty:](#)  
News 10, May 25, 2026

[New Lake George memorial honors fallen 18th-century war heroes:](#)  
WRGB, May 22, 2026

[3-142 Aviation flyover at Citi Field \( YouTube\) :](#)  
Mets , May 25, 2026

[BOCES, NY National Guard host event at rec park:](#)  
Malone Telegram, May 28, 2026

[BOCES, National Guard host event in Malone:](#)  
Plattsburgh Press Republican, May 28,2026

[Cohoes man receives Academic Achievement Award at NYSP graduation:](#)  
WTEN, May 28, 2026

## **New York National Guard**

[Duty Calls: Buglers sought to play taps at military funerals:](#)  
TimesUnion, May 25, 2026

## **Veterans**

[South Shore Press Columnist Receives State Honor:](#)  
South Shore Press, May 26, 2026 |

---

## **Citizens Preparedness**

### **Citizen preparedness class scheduled in Lowville**

**Rome Daily Sentinel, May 22, 2026 :**

LOWVILLE — The Lewis County Office for the Aging will host a free emergency preparedness training program at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at its office at 5274 Outer Stowe St., Lowville.

The 90-minute class, conducted by the New York National Guard as part of the New York State Citizens Preparedness Corps program, will provide information on preparing for natural and man-made disasters. Participants will learn about emergency response, recovery and creating family emergency plans.

Attendees also will receive information on emergency supplies, reporting suspicious activity through the “See Something, Send Something” mobile app and preparing emergency kits. Each family attending will receive a starter “go bag” emergency kit, along with a training certificate and preparedness materials.

Registration is encouraged at [www.dhSES.ny.gov/citizen-preparedness-training-calendar](http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/citizen-preparedness-training-calendar). For more information, contact Carla Hellinger at 315-376-5300 or [carlahellinger@lewiscounty.ny.gov](mailto:carlahellinger@lewiscounty.ny.gov).

[https://www.romesentinel.com/citizen-preparedness-class-scheduled-in-lowville/article\\_c12e2bb2-31d3-4a27-9fe3-ef7bb4f3d473.html](https://www.romesentinel.com/citizen-preparedness-class-scheduled-in-lowville/article_c12e2bb2-31d3-4a27-9fe3-ef7bb4f3d473.html)

[Return to top](#)

---

## **Emergency Response**

### **New York National Guard Fights for 9/11 Benefits (audio)**

**WXHC, May 27, 2026 :**

Recently X101's Jack Eves talks with veteran Patrick Kelly about a long-standing gap in workers' compensation benefits for New York National Guard members who served during 9/11. Kelly highlights Bill S6832, which seeks to finally recognize these guardsmen as state employees so they can receive the same health coverage and financial support as other first responders.

You can help by contacting your local Assemblymember's Office and asking them to support the legislature in the State Assembly.

<https://www.wxhc.com/new-york-national-guard-fights-for-9-11-benefits/>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **History**

### **Stories of perseverance, bravery and sacrifice (Youtube video)**

**WRGB, May 25, 2026 :**

*NOTE: This WRGB Special features the NYS Military Museum and NYARNG Honor Guard.*

In honor of Memorial Day, CBS6 presents this look at some of the moments and people who shaped New York state and the Capital Region into a cornerstone of our nation's history.

-----  
Transcript

Follow along using the transcript.

0:00 Tonight, stories of perseverance.

0:066 seconds-They just treated him terribly. He thought, "I'm going to die." Bravery.

0:1111 seconds-The people who participated, they were taking a significant amount of risk and sacrifice.

0:1717 seconds-Ellsworth is shot point blank in the chest.

0:1919 seconds-As we honor local heroes for Memorial Day.

0:2727 seconds-Good evening. I'm JT Fetch. Thanks for joining us. As America approaches its 250th birthday, we're honoring the moments and the people who shaped New

0:3636 seconds-York and the Capital Region into a cornerstone of our nation's history. On this Memorial Day, we remember the men and women who gave everything in service

0:4444 seconds-to this country through four powerful accounts from our own backyard defined by courage, honor, and duty. First

0:5252 seconds-tonight, the remarkable journey of a Troy airman killed during World War II and believed to be lost forever.

1:121 minute, 12 seconds-May 7th, 2026 at Saratoga National Cemetery in Skylerville. Military honors for second lieutenant Joseph Burke, killed during World War II.

1:311 minute, 31 seconds-It's a ceremony 81 years in the making.

1:341 minute, 34 seconds-It's a journey that starts in hope and it goes through this just unspeakable grief that gets worse and worse and

1:411 minute, 41 seconds-worse and and ends in such unknown finally ends in honor and remembrance.

2:012 minutes, 1 second-Joseph Leroy Burke. Roy to those who knew him grows up in Troy, New York.

2:062 minutes, 6 seconds-Roy is one of three boys and then later there was a sister. He went to Catholic Central High School.

2:132 minutes, 13 seconds-After graduation, Roy studies at Sienna College and also takes part in a federal pilot training program at Albany Airport.

2:202 minutes, 20 seconds-He had aspirations to get into the uh the airline industry. But in 1940, with World War II raging, an eventual US

2:282 minutes, 28 secondsi-nvolvement all but certain, Roy joins the Army Airore and passes advanced flying school in 1941.

2:352 minutes, 35 seconds-Maxwell Field, one of the Army's training centers, has graduation day for 283 new pilot officers.

2:422 minutes, 42 seconds-It's a proud day for a family with a long history of service. My great great-grandfather was in the Civil War.

2:492 minutes, 49 seconds-His father was in the War of 1812. His father was in the American Revolution.

2:532 minutes, 53 seconds-The newly commissioned second lieutenant soon joins a squadron of P40 Warhawks in the Philippines. It's part of an American military buildup meant to deter Japanese aggression in the Pacific.

3:053 minutes, 5 seconds-It doesn't work.

3:113 minutes, 11 seconds-On December 8th, 1941, just hours after bombing Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, the Japanese attack US bases in the Philippines.

3:223 minutes, 22 seconds-An air raid catches Roy's squadron on the tarmac, destroying nearly all their airplanes. He fights on with an artillery unit for the next 5 months before US forces are finally defeated.

3:333 minutes, 33 seconds-They blasted us, burned us out until we surrender.

3:363 minutes, 36 seconds-The victorious Japanese take 11,000 Americans and Filipinos prisoner. Roy among them, they're sent to a P camp on the island of Luzon, where conditions

3:453 minutes, 45 seconds-are appalling. the heat, the disease, the executions, beatings, they just treated him terribly. And so I'm sure he thought, I'm I'm going to die.

3:563 minutes, 56 seconds-But Roy survives for 2 and 1/2 years.

3:583 minutes, 58 seconds-And by December of 1944, American forces are close to recapturing the Philippines and potentially liberating the camps.

4:064 minutes, 6 seconds-I think there's somewhat of a feeling of hope. But those hopes are soon dashed when Roy and 1,600 other prisoners are

4:144 minutes, 14 seconds-marched to Manila Harbor and crammed into the hold of a small transport ship.

4:184 minutes, 18 seconds-The Japanese want to take all able-bodied prisoners and put them back to Japan for slave labor.

4:244 minutes, 24 seconds-After just one day at sea, the ship, not marked as a P transport, is sunk by American planes. Roy and other survivors

4:324 minutes, 32 seconds-make it to shore only to be packed onto another ship, the Anura Maru. It gets as far as present day Taiwan before US

4:394 minutes, 39 seconds-planes sink it too. This time Roy's luck runs out.

4:434 minutes, 43 seconds-It must have been just a horrible ending and then he just is lost to history.

4:504 minutes, 50 seconds-As a P, the US government has no way of knowing Roy's fate and lists him as missing.

4:554 minutes, 55 seconds-My grandparents were just beside themselves.

4:594 minutes, 59 seconds-Not until 1946, after the war ends, does more information emerge. Japanese records indicate Roy died aboard the Anora Maru. His body likely buried in a

5:085 minutes, 8 seconds-nearby mass grave. American recovery teams exume more than 400 bodies, but none can be identified. The remains are

5:155 minutes, 15 seconds-buried in Honolulu as unknowns where they remain for nearly 80 years. In 2022, the Defense P MIA accounting

5:235 minutes, 23 seconds-agency or DPAA launches an effort to identify Americans lost aboard Japanese prison ships. The unknown remains from

5:305 minutes, 30 seconds-the Anora Maru are exumed and sent to a DPAA lab where DNA is compared to surviving relatives.

5:375 minutes, 37 seconds-We were asked to provide the DNA and so from that they match the remains.

5:435 minutes, 43 seconds-On May 12th, 2025, the DPAA announces they've identified the remains of Second Lieutenant Joseph Burke. Nearly a year

5:505 minutes, 50 seconds-later, he returns to the capital region, touching down at Albany International Airport.

5:555 minutes, 55 seconds-He learned to fly in 1940 at that airport. And 80 years later, he comes back.

6:036 minutes, 3 seconds-At Saratoga National Cemetery, a circle is closed. Royy's final resting place just miles from where it started.

6:116 minutes, 11 seconds-It's the miracle of modern science that brought him home. But it's the nation's promise.

6:206 minutes, 20 seconds-Never forget. And he's not forgotten.

6:266 minutes, 26 seconds-Very powerful. After his internment, Second Lieutenant Burke was also honored with a banner. It'll fly above the

6:336 minutes, 33 seconds-corner of 115th Street and Third Avenue in his old neighborhood in Troy. Now, from World War II to the dawn of the

6:406 minutes, 40 seconds-Civil War, a forgotten hero whose sacrifice helped rally his fellow New Yorkers during the Battle of Gettysburg.

6:476 minutes, 47 seconds-In Mechanicville, the name Ellsworth is seemingly everywhere on signs, markers, even towering memorials. Most just drive

6:566 minutes, 56 seconds-on by. not realizing this name was once the most famous in America, synonymous with an act of bravery that saved the nation.

7:067 minutes, 6 seconds-Today, this story lives at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. Among its 25,000 artifacts

7:137 minutes, 13 second-srelated to the state's marshall past is a garment once worn by a guy named, you guessed it, Ellsworth. This was the

7:217 minutes, 21 seconds-frock coat of Elmer Ellsworth who was born in Malton, New York, raised in uh Mechanicville. His father was a tailor,

7:287 minutes, 28 seconds-not a wealthy man. His mother ran like a boarding house. Young guy, what am I going to do? I want to make something of myself.

7:377 minutes, 37 seconds-And boy did he ever. In 1854, Ellsworth went west to Illinois to study law and military science. Just six years later,

7:457 minutes, 45 seconds-he rocketed to fame as the leader of a celebrated military drill team that toured the nation.

7:507 minutes, 50 seconds-His Chicago Zouave cadets would move from town to town and they would have a drill off, if you will, against the

7:587 minutes, 58 seconds-local regiments and it was extremely popular. He did this throughout the summer of 1860. Arguably, he was the

8:068 minutes, 6 seconds-greatest, most well-known celebrity in that summer of 1860. After that, he got a job with another guy you might have heard of.

8:148 minutes, 14 seconds-He went to uh work at the law office of Abraham Lincoln, and he helped Abraham Lincoln uh during his campaign for presidency.

8:228 minutes, 22 seconds-But the real reason Elmer Ellsworth is now on street signs, an act of valor at the dawn of the Civil War.

8:298 minutes, 29 seconds-In May 1861, while commanding troops around Washington DC, he spies a massive Confederate flag flying at top a hotel

8:378 minutes, 37 seconds-across the PTOAC in Virginia. Ellsworth decided to take it upon himself and he climbed to the top and cut down the flag.

8:458 minutes, 45 seconds-But on his way out, the hotel's owner is waiting with a shotgun.

8:508 minutes, 50 seconds-Ellsworth is shot point blank in the chest.

8:528 minutes, 52 seconds-He dies right there wearing this very coat.

8:558 minutes, 55 seconds-Almost immediately, Ellsworth, his body, the flag were quickly scured out of the Marshall House and immediately taken

9:039 minutes, 3 seconds-back across the river right to the Navy yard. Word got out to Abraham Lincoln who wept openly at the news of his buddy

9:119 minutes, 11 seconds-Ellsworth's death. He is arguably the first Union officer to die and the first conspicuous casualty of the war.

9:219 minutes, 21 seconds-Ellsworth's death makes headlines across the country.

9:249 minutes, 24 seconds-If you cracked open your newspaper and you saw the headline Ellsworth slain, you were like, "Oh my god, that's the guy I saw last summer doing his little

9:329 minutes, 32 seconds-drill competition." But it also becomes a call to arms heard loudest around his old hometown.

9:389 minutes, 38 seconds-Small communities like it soda and Saratoga County rallied to the cause.

9:429 minutes, 42 seconds-In the summer of 1861, these recruits formed the New York 44th Infantry dedicated to the memory of Elmer Ellsworth.

9:509 minutes, 50 secondsThey identified themselves by putting PER on their caps right in the front standing for people's Ellsworth regiment.

9:579 minutes, 57 secondsThe 44th serves with distinction at battles like Antidum and Chancellor'sville. But their true test comes at the war's most decisive battle, Gettysburg.

10:0710 minutes, 7 secondsThe 44th found themselves at like the crucible of the battle.

10:1210 minutes, 12 secondsOn July 2nd, 1863, elements of the 44th are rushed to defend two hills from a furious Confederate attack. Fail and the

10:1910 minutes, 19 secondsrebels could win the battle and perhaps the war. The fighting is desperate.

10:2410 minutes, 24 secondsCasualties mount, ammunition dwindles, but the 44th holds fast. Their courageous stand helps turn the tide of battle.

10:3210 minutes, 32 secondsUltimately, the battle had ended with the Union victory and the Confederates on the run back down to the south. It

10:3910 minutes, 39 secondswas the turning point of the entire war effort. Today in Gettysburg, the 44th New York is honored by this imposing monument on the hill they once defended.

10:5010 minutes, 50 secondsAnd in Mechanicville, these weathered markers stand as enduring witness to the brave man who inspired them.

10:5710 minutes, 57 secondsCertainly a remarkable and little known story. Coming up here, how a symbol of protest rallied early residents of Skencity to the revolutionary cause.

11:0811 minutes, 8 secondsWelcome back. For Memorial Day, we're highlighting powerful stories of New Yorkers who laid it all on the line for freedom. Next up, we're digging into the

11:1611 minutes, 16 secondsarchives at the Skencity Historical Society to uncover a one-of-a-kind artifact. One that once inspired colonial New Yorkers to protest and

11:2511 minutes, 25 seconds eventually fight against the British crown. And as we learned, the impact is still being felt today.

11:3511 minutes, 35 seconds We're at the Skencity County Historical Society. Of all the artifacts big and small in our collection, this right here might just be the most significant piece that we have.

11:4811 minutes, 48 seconds A simple banner, what we believe was originally blue. It's definitely faded to this brownish color after all of

11:5611 minutes, 56 seconds these years. And the only identifying feature on it is the word liberty emblazoned here. And this is one of the, if

12:0412 minutes, 4 seconds not the only surviving liberty flag in existence today.

12:1112 minutes, 11 seconds One way that people living in the late 18th century made their dissatisfaction known was to raise liberty poles. And on top of these poles would often be

12:2012 minutes, 20 seconds liberty flags. Of course, the British authorities did not want these public condemnations of their policies and

12:2612 minutes, 26 seconds their taxes. So often times soldiers or police officials would be sent to take these poles and take these flags down.

12:3412 minutes, 34 seconds And this happened all throughout the colonies.

12:3712 minutes, 37 seconds The origins of this flag are actually shrouded in mystery. And maybe we shouldn't be surprised by that because this was such a controversial thing.

12:4612 minutes, 46 seconds Flying it was technically considered a violation, a breach of the peace. So we don't know who made this.

12:5412 minutes, 54 seconds Skencity at the dawn of the American Revolution is a small little town, a population of several thousand. These

13:0213 minutes, 2 seconds people hail from a variety of different backgrounds and origins, many of them from the days of the Dutch settlement of

13:0813 minutes, 8 seconds 1661. English people were relative newcomers. So when British policies are being passed which impact the everyday

13:1613 minutes, 16 seconds lives of Skencity people, they can really see it as this foreign encroachment. They felt they weren't, you know, duly represented in this uh country like Englanders were in England.

13:2913 minutes, 29 seconds So you had a constant tug-of-war between the British officials and colonial demands which is not really being settled or resolved in any way. On

13:38 13 minutes, 38 seconds January of 1774, inspired by the Boston Tea Party, which had literally just happened late the

13:45 13 minutes, 45 seconds previous year, a whole crowd, an angry mob, you might say, forms in Skencity to raise a liberty flag in the center of

13:52 13 minutes, 52 seconds town and refuse, repeated in treaties by the local authorities to disperse. The culmination of nearly a decade worth of

14:00 14 minutes, 00 seconds infringements upon the perceived liberties of these colonies. I think the people who participated in the protest of 1774, they were taking a significant

14:09 14 minutes, 09 seconds amount of risk, should they be jailed, they might miss the next planting season in the late 18th century where a single

14:16 14 minutes, 16 seconds crop failure and you and your family, you could starve.

14:20 14 minutes, 20 seconds It does uh really spotlight how bold and how courageous these people were. It's arguably when Skencity starts to throw its weight behind the

14:29 14 minutes, 29 seconds revolutionary movement that's growing across the colonies. Especially in the early days of the war, there were no standards flags. Betsy Ross certainly

14:38 14 minutes, 38 seconds couldn't be producing enough flags for enough companies of militia throughout the colonies. A flag like this would be carried by the Skencity militia

14:45 14 minutes, 45 seconds essentially wherever they went. We even believe that this flag, this Liberty flag was carried to Saratoga by some of Skencity's fighting men.

14:54 14 minutes, 54 seconds Fire.

14:56 14 minutes, 56 seconds After the war, the flag goes to the Sanders family. During the July 4th celebration, Judge Sanders used to loan

15:04 15 minutes, 04 seconds sit to Nicholas Feeder. He enjoyed American Revolutionary War relics, having been one himself. He was the

15:13 15 minutes, 13 seconds oldest living American Revolutionary War veteran when he died in 1862.

15:19 15 minutes, 19 seconds Only about 1% of American Revolutionary War veterans had actually had their photograph taken.

15:26 15 minutes, 26 seconds So if the Liberty flag is perhaps the first formal and best documented protest in Skencity's early history, it

15:33 15 minutes, 33 seconds certainly wouldn't be the last. Every generation would have its own struggle for liberty. Every generation would have

15:40 15 minutes, 40 seconds its own form of protest. But that continued theme of Americans coming together, of articulating for themselves

15:47 15 minutes, 47 seconds what they think is their right and their liberty, that's been constant throughout.

15:53 15 minutes, 53 seconds If you want to check out the Liberty flag for yourself, it is on display until November as part of the Threads of Liberty exhibit at the Skencity Historical Society. Stay with us here.

16:02 16 minutes, 2 seconds Coming up, we've got the moving story of a local GI who helped end the Holocaust and came home with one of the most unbelievable artifacts you'll ever see.

16:13 16 minutes, 13 seconds Welcome back. For Memorial Day, we're diving into the archives to reveal the incredible contributions made by Capitol Region residents to our national story.

16:22 16 minutes, 22 seconds Now, the Albany man who helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp during World War II and came home with an astounding souvenir.

16:33 16 minutes, 33 seconds Today is October 2nd, 1995. The liberator is Richard Marowitz.

16:39 16 minutes, 39 seconds This is an oral history interview given by Richard Marowitz of Albany about his time in World War II.

16:46 16 minutes, 46 seconds What date did you enter the service? Do you recall? Um, it was um May something or 1943.

16:54 16 minutes, 54 seconds It tells how a 19-year-old Jewish kid helped end one of the worst atrocities in world history and walked away with a prized possession of its architect.

17:05 17 minutes, 5 seconds Today, this story lives at the New York State Military Museum. Director Richard Goldenberg says that among its 25,000

17:12 17 minutes, 12 seconds artifacts, one sits on top. The hat belonged to Adolf Hitler when he was Reich Chancellor in Germany. the

17:20 17 minutes, 20 seconds civilian role he had as leader of the German government before most Americans come to associate him wearing his

17:27 17 minutes, 27 seconds uniform in a day-to-day basis. But the most incredible thing about this unique artifact is the story of how Richard Marowitz got it in the first place.

17:39 17 minutes, 39 seconds Spring 1945. In the waning days of World War II, Richard Marowitz is a private in the 42nd Infantry as they battle to

17:46 17 minutes, 46 seconds defeat Hitler's armies in Germany. Day and night, the big guns of the artillery hammer at the playing Germans.

17:53 17 minutes, 53 seconds Rich is part of a regimental intelligence and reconnaissance team.

17:56 17 minutes, 56 seconds And our job was to find the enemy, report back to headquarters.

18:00 18 minutes And on April 29th, 1945, they're ordered towards the small town of Dhaka. It's soon clear this is no ordinary mission.

18:09 18 minutes, 9 seconds We started smelling it before we got there. Initially, we thought it was dead animals, but the stench is not rotting livestock.

18:17 18 minutes, 17 seconds Rich and his team have stumbled upon the Nazis oldest concentration camp, Dao.

18:23 18 minutes, 23 seconds Now, we'd heard like everybody I guess in that time had heard, you know, stories, but never imagined to what

18:31 18 minutes, 31 seconds sextent. We didn't know about concentration camps.

18:34 18 minutes, 34 seconds Originally built to contain political prisoners, by 1945, it also held tens of thousands of Russians, Poles, and Jews.

18:42 18 minutes, 42 seconds Most are emaciated. Many are dead. There was a railway track just adjacent.

18:49 18 minutes, 49 seconds More than 2,000 corpses were scattered amongst all those rail cars. It was very difficult to absorb it.

18:58 18 minutes, 58 seconds And you don't know what you're you don't really you can't put your finger on all your feelings. It is just it's too big.

19:09 19 minutes, 9 seconds The next morning, Rich's unit is looking for intel in nearby Munich. When they're ordered to search the former apartment of the Nazi leader himself, Adolf

19:17 19 minutes, 17 seconds Hitler, in one of the bedrooms, Rich finds a box inside the black top hat.

19:23 19 minutes, 23 seconds Just a day after seeing the concentration camp Dachau liberated. He threw it on the ground and immediately

19:30 19 minutes, 30 seconds stomped on it, which is why it's in its less than pristine condition today.

19:35 19 minutes, 35 seconds You know, I don't normally think of jumping on hats. When I saw the hat and I realized who it had belonged to, you I was just uh mad. I was very, very mad.

19:4819 minutes, 48 secondsAfter leaving Hitler's apartment, Rich stuffs the hat at the bottom of his duffel bag where it remains for more than 50 years. Then in the '9s, at the

19:5619 minutes, 56 secondsurging of local veterans groups, he finally pulls it back out and gives it a new purpose. Rich was part of an effort

20:0420 minutes, 4 secondsto reach out to local schools so that school children throughout the capital region could hear directly from the GIS who were there. There are always going

20:1320 minutes, 13 secondsto be some people who want to do this kind of thing. And um you just cannot let them forget

20:2320 minutes, 23 secondsum that it can happen. It will happen to guard against. Rich passes away in 2014

20:3120 minutes, 31 secondsand in 2025 the hat is donated to the museum. By having this exhibit here, we're now able to share that firsthand

20:3920 minutes, 39 secondsawareness with every visitor who comes through our doors so they are also just as aware of the impact of the Holocaust

20:4720 minutes, 47 secondsand what the GIS went through to end Nazi Germany's reign in Europe.

20:5220 minutes, 52 secondsIt truly is powerful. Amazing to see that artifact in person. If you want to know more about these stories or you want to check out some of our other

21:0021 minutesAmazing America episodes, yo

21:04

21 minutes, 4 seconds

For now, I'm JT Fetch. Thanks for joining us. Have a great night.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGf-9o0KcuU>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **Joint Task Force Empire Shield**

**NYPD Or National Guard? Jewish Activists Debate What Level Security Is Needed At Israel Day Parade**

**Yeshiva World, May 25, 2026 :**

Longtime pro-Israel activist Dov Hikind is calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul to deploy New York National Guard troops to the Israel Day Parade on May 31, citing a rise in antisemitic incidents in the city and concern that marchers and spectators could become targets along and around the Fifth Avenue route.

The parade's official host, however, says it has not asked for the Guard and is content with the NYPD's preparations.

"We need to make sure bad things don't happen," Hikind, the founder of Americans Against Antisemitism and a former state assemblyman who represented heavily Orthodox neighborhoods in Brooklyn, told The New York Post. "We want to make sure there is safety for the Jewish community. I'm calling on Governor Hochul to bring in the National Guard to help the New York City Police Department."

Hikind said his concern extends beyond the marchers themselves to people carrying Israeli flags or wearing pro-Israel gear in the surrounding neighborhood, whom he said could be targeted on subways or side streets away from the parade's main security perimeter. Hochul has previously sent Guard members to staff transit hubs at her direction, and Hikind argued the same logic applies to the parade weekend.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which organizes the 61st annual parade, has not joined that call. JCRC chief executive Mark Treyger told The Post his organization has full confidence in the NYPD and Commissioner Jessica Tisch, and is working closely with city law enforcement and the Community Security Initiative — the joint security program operated by JCRC-NY and UJA-Federation of New York — on parade-day operations.

"Commissioner Tisch, the NYPD, and all of our law enforcement partners have left no stone unturned in preparing for next Sunday's parade," Treyger said. "Extensive planning, coordination, and security infrastructure are in place to ensure a safe, successful, and joyful celebration."

This year's "Israel Day on Fifth," themed "Proud Americans, Proud Zionists," runs from 62nd Street to 74th Street and is expected to draw record turnout, organizers say, in part as a direct response to Mayor Zohran Mamdani's announcement that he will not attend. Mamdani, a democratic socialist and longtime supporter of the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanctions movement, becomes the first New York City mayor in the parade's 61-year history to sit it out, breaking with a tradition observed by his predecessor Eric Adams and every mayor since 1964.

"While I will not be attending the Israel Day Parade, my lack of attendance should not be mistaken for a refusal to provide security or the necessary permits for its safety," Mamdani said in a statement first reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I've been very clear: I believe in equal rights for all people — everywhere."

Hikind cited the mayor's boycott as part of the climate that prompted his call. He also pointed to recent anti-Israel demonstrations outside Jewish institutions including the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan and Young Israel Senior Services in Midwood, a Brooklyn neighborhood he formerly represented in the state Assembly.

The parade is taking shape against a broader rupture between City Hall and the city's Jewish community. The UJA-Federation of New York and the JCRC declined invitations to Mamdani's first Jewish Heritage event at Gracie Mansion earlier this month, citing his rejection of "the core pillar of our heritage, the State of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people." A protest at Gracie Mansion is planned for May 26. Mamdani, in remarks at his Gracie Mansion event, acknowledged the surge in antisemitism, noting that Jewish residents make up roughly 12 percent of the city's population but account for more than half of its hate crime victims.

The Anti-Defamation League has launched a "Mamdani Monitor" tracking the new administration's posture toward the Jewish community. Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon, who has marched at past parades, has publicly raised concerns about the mayor's previously stated willingness to direct the NYPD to arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu under the International Criminal Court warrant should he set foot in New York.

The governor's office has not publicly responded to Hikind's request.

The parade kicks off Sunday morning, May 31.

<https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/israel-news/2552825/nypd-or-national-guard-jewish-activists-debate-what-level-security-is-needed-at-israel-day-parade.html>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **Jewish leader calls on Hochul to send in National Guard for NYC Israel Day Parade**

**New York Post, May 24, 2026:**

A prominent pro-Israel activist is calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul to dispatch the National Guard to the Big Apple to help protect marchers at the upcoming Israel Day Parade in the wake of a troubling increase in antisemitic incidents.

Americans Against Antisemitism founder Dov Hikind said he's a supporter of the NYPD but thinks local cops could use a boost — not just along the parade route in Manhattan but in the general vicinity of the march, as people carrying Israel flags or wearing pro-Israel gear could become targets of violence.

"We need to make sure bad things don't happen," said Hikind, a former state Assembly member who represented heavily orthodox Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn. "We want to make sure there is safety for the Jewish community. I'm calling on Governor Hochul to bring in the National Guard to help the New York City Police Department."

Hochul has periodically dispatched the National Guard soldiers to man major transit hubs to assist in crime prevention.

But the head of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which hosts the 61st Israel Day Parade, said it is working closely with the NYPD and is not requesting Hochul to send in the National Guard.

“I have full faith and confidence in the greatest police department in the world, the NYPD, under the exceptional leadership of Commissioner Jessica Tisch, who has done a tremendous job ensuring the safety and success of major events and parades across New York City, including the Israel Day on Fifth parade in recent years,” JCRC CEO Mark Treyger told The Post.

“Commissioner Tisch, the NYPD, and all of our law enforcement partners have left no stone unturned in preparing for next Sunday’s parade.”

He said the Community Security Initiative, the joint security program of JCRC-NY and UJA-Federation of New York, is working “hand in hand” with law enforcement to help keep parade goers safe.

“New Yorkers should know that extensive planning, coordination, and security infrastructure are in place to ensure a safe, successful, and joyful celebration next Sunday,” Treyger said. “We look forward to proudly celebrating our Jewish identity, our connection to Israel, and our appreciation for living in the best city in the world, New York City,.”

Hikind insisted extra security is warranted, given recent anti-Israel protests outside Jewish houses of worship such as the Park East Synagogue and Young Israel Senior Services in Midwood Brooklyn, a neighborhood he used to represent.

He also noted that Mayor Zohran Mamdani, a staunch critic of Israel, is boycotting the parade.

The parade is set for Sunday, May 31 and marches from 62nd Street to 74th Street on Fifth Avenue.

Hochul’s office said the New York State Police will have a presence at the Israel Day Parade, but stopped short of committing to dispatching National Guard soldiers.

“Keeping New Yorkers safe is Governor Hochul’s top priority — especially as communities gather for major celebrations. At the Governor’s direction, State Police maintain an increased presence at large events throughout the state, and we will be closely coordinating with the NYPD and law enforcement partners in New York City to ensure the safety of all involved,” a Hochul spokesperson said.

National Guard personnel remain deployed at major transportation hubs, as well as at key bridges and tunnels within New York City, her office said.

State law enforcement continues to monitor social media activity and remain on high alert for any credible threats to New Yorkers’ safety, the governor’s team added.

<https://nypost.com/2026/05/24/us-news/jewish-leader-calls-on-hochul-to-send-in-national-guard-for-nyc-israel-day-parade/>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **New York Army National Guard**

### **U.S. Casualties in Iran War Rise Amid Ongoing Hostilities and Controversy Surrounding Official Counts**

**SSBCrack News, ( The Intercept) May 26, 2026 :**

The casualty count for U.S. forces in the ongoing conflict in Iran has risen, as the Pentagon confirmed an increase to 423, with three additional service members reported wounded since the last update on Friday. This uptick in casualties came on the heels of a U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announcement regarding “self-defense strikes” in southern Iran.

In a recent statement, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei asserted that the war has highlighted the vulnerabilities of U.S. military installations throughout the Middle East. Khamenei remarked, “The hands of time do not turn backward, and the nations and lands of the region will no longer serve as shields for American bases,” suggesting that the U.S. is losing its high ground in the region.

The situation has become increasingly complex as the U.S. attempts to maintain a fragile ceasefire with Iran, which has lasted for over a month. President Donald Trump has fluctuated between allegations that a peace agreement is near and threats of renewed conflict. Secretary of State Marco Rubio indicated that discussions about ending hostilities are still ongoing, but warned that a resolution could take “a few days.”

Despite the official count from the Pentagon, investigations reveal that the figures may be significantly understated. Reporting from The Intercept indicated that the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) may be omitting hundreds of known casualties, contributing to what has been termed a “casualty cover-up.” For instance, the DCAS is purportedly missing records for over 200 sailors treated for smoke inhalation and lacerations stemming from a fire aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford.

On the day the ceasefire was established, the count of U.S. casualties stood at 385. However, as hostilities paused, the number gradually rose to 428, only to later fall to 413 without any public explanation from the War Department. More recently, updates showed the total climbing once again, leading to the current figure of 423 confirmed dead and wounded.

In a related development, CENTCOM reported that 13 service members were killed during Operation Epic Fury, the formal name for the military campaign in question. There remains some confusion, however, with DCAS listings showing inconsistencies in death counts; most pages still claim the number stands at 13 U.S. deaths due to hostile actions, while at least one indicates a tally of 14.

The Pentagon’s casualty report notably lacks the details of Maj. Sorffly Davius, who was assigned to the New York Army National Guard and reportedly died of illness while on duty in Kuwait earlier this year. Representatives and military officials have acknowledged Davius’s service, yet his name remains absent from official lists.

Alongside these figures, DCAS tracks cases of “non-hostile” deaths resulting from non-combat-related injuries or illnesses, but fails to report non-hostile injuries. Currently, DCAS has confirmed that 64 Navy personnel have been wounded in action, but numbers about non-combat-related incidents remain unclear.

As the conflict persists and the toll on American forces continues to rise, the Pentagon’s transparency regarding casualty figures remains a contentious issue, with mounting pressure on military officials to clarify discrepancies in the reported data.

At SSBCrack News, our dedicated editorial team brings you the latest and most reliable updates on Defence, Geopolitics, Military Affairs, Science, and Technology. Driven by a passion for national security and strategic awareness, the SSBCrack News Desk delivers fact-checked, timely, and insightful reporting that matters to defence aspirants, veterans, and informed citizens alike. With a commitment to accuracy and credibility, we are your trusted source for all things defence and beyond.

[https://news.ssbcrack.com/u-s-casualties-in-iran-war-rise-amid-ongoing-hostilities-and-controversy-surrounding-official-counts/#google\\_vignette](https://news.ssbcrack.com/u-s-casualties-in-iran-war-rise-amid-ongoing-hostilities-and-controversy-surrounding-official-counts/#google_vignette)

[Return to top](#)

---

## **City of Yelm, community members remember fallen heroes during Memorial Day gathering**

**Nisqually Valley News, May 26, 2026 :**

*Note: this news item mentions NY Army National Guard Soldier Chris Engledrum.*

On a wet, quiet Memorial Day afternoon on Monday, May 25, roughly 50 community members gathered at Yelm City Park to honor the nation’s fallen service members, joining in reflection and remembrance during the observance.

Mayor Joe DePinto addressed attendees with a speech that recognized the sacrifices of military personnel and the enduring cost of freedom. He also touched on the unique relationship between the City of Yelm and the United States military, given the close proximity between Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the city.

Additionally, numerous servicemembers call Yelm their home. The City of Yelm itself has been distinguished as a Purple Heart City for nearly a decade, with the designation becoming official in 2017.

Yelm became only the fourth city in Washington to receive status as a Purple Heart City, and boasts strong veteran support systems thanks to local organizations like VFW Post 5580 and American Legion Post 164.

You can learn more about the different services offered to veterans in Yelm, such as VA navigation, veteran service officer support, suicide prevention and more, visit [ci.yelm.wa.us/community/our\\_military\\_community.php](http://ci.yelm.wa.us/community/our_military_community.php).

Prior to DePinto addressing attendees of the gathering, members of VFW Post 5580 Becki McGinnis and Jeffrey Holmes took to the microphone to speak about Memorial Day. McGinnis led a prayer and remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, while Holmes remembered several of his friends who were killed in action. Specifically, Holmes honored Army Sgt. Chris Engeldrum — who was an M60 gunner in Holmes' infantry platoon in the 82nd Airborne Division. After Desert Storm, Engeldrum left the Army and joined the New York City Firefighter and was part of the response to the attacks in NYC on Sept. 11. Following the attack on America, Engeldrum felt inspired to serve his country once again and joined the New York National Guard. He was killed in action by an IED in Baghdad, Iraq, on Nov. 29, 2004.

Holmes also honored Lt. Col. Kim S. Orlando, who was the highest ranking Army officer killed in Iraq. He was killed on Oct. 16, 2003, while attempting to negotiate with armed men who were congregating on a road near a mosque after curfew in Karbala, Iraq.

Lastly, Holmes honored the best man at his wedding, Lt. Col. David E. Cabrera — who died on Oct. 29, 2011, when a Taliban suicide bomber rammed a vehicle, loaded with explosives, into an armored NATO bus. Army Staff Sgt. Christopher R. Newman, Army Sgt. James M. Darrough and Army Sgt. Carlo F. Eugenio were also killed.

“Our country celebrates veterans with three holidays. Veterans Day — that’s when we remember veterans of past and present. Armed Forces Day — we mainly recognize those veterans who are currently serving. Which brings us to today, Memorial Day, where we remember those no longer with us,” Holmes said. “To those veterans among us currently serving, please think of joining the American Legion or the VFW. It’s not all about bars or war stories anymore. We actively contribute to our community.”

DePinto followed, and said that the rumble of helicopters, the booms of artillery training and the sight of a uniform at a local business is all part of the presence of military families woven into the Yelm community.

“On Memorial Day, we pause. We step away from our daily routines to honor the brave men and women who gave their measure of devotion in service to our country,” DePinto said. “On Memorial Day in Yelm, this day holds a particularly deep and personal meaning. We don’t just read about our nation’s heroes in history books. They’re our neighbors, our friends, the parents coaching our students’ sports teams and the familiar faces we see at our local shops. Being so close to Joint Base Lewis-McChord isn’t just a matter of proximity, it’s a core part of our identity.”

DePinto added that Yelm residents live alongside those who currently serve, and those who have decided to call the area home after their service concludes. He believes that Yelm understands more intimately than other communities that the freedoms we enjoy don’t come free.

“They are protected by a shield of courage, and that shield is held by ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things,” DePinto said. “Though survival was never guaranteed, at every critical juncture our nation’s future was secured by a generation of patriots who answered a call to defend it. They fought for an idea, the radical, beautiful idea that a people could govern themselves, that liberty was a right and that this nation, conceived of freedom, was worth dying for. They gave their lives so that our country could not only survive, but thrive. They sacrificed their own futures so that we could have ours.”

DePinto added that sacrifices made by the men and women serving in the United States military has ensured that debates can occur at the city government level, that lessons in school can be accurately taught and that the civil act of gathering is possible.

He believes their sacrifice is a sacred trust handed down generation by generation. It’s now our responsibility to be worthy of that sacred trust, DePinto stated.

“As America looks toward the next 250 years, our greatest tribute to the fallen is to cherish the republic for which they died. To be active citizens. To engage with one another in good faith. To build a nation and communities strong enough, united enough and worthy enough of their immense sacrifice,” DePinto said. “So today, let’s do more than just remember. Let’s reflect on the names etched in memorials. Let us honor the stories of courage passed down through families. Let us live fully for those who gave it all. God bless our fallen heroes. God bless their families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.”

<https://www.yelmonline.com/stories/city-of-yelm-community-members-remember-fallen-heroes-during-memorial-day-gathering.403123>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **News10NBC honors local military personnel killed in the line of duty**

**News 10, May 25, 2026 :**

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — On this Memorial Day, News10NBC is honoring local men and women who died while in the line of duty serving their country.

First, News10NBC is honoring Army First Lt. James Lyons, who died on Sept. 27, 2006 in Baghdad when he was 28 years old.

Lyons graduated from Brighton and played football and lacrosse in high school and graduated from Syracuse University.

From Dansville, News10NBC honors Air Force Staff Sgt. Alexandria Morrow. Morrow died March 22, 2017 at 25 years old while serving in Jordan during operation Iraqi Freedom.

Next, we honor Marine Lance Corporal Brian Schramm from Greece.

Schramm was killed by enemy action in Iraq on Oct. 15, 2004. He was 22 years old.

Marine Lance Corporal Zachary Smith of Hornell was killed Jan. 24, 2010 in Afghanistan. Smith was 19 years old.

Army Sgt. Devin Snyder of Cohocton was killed in Afghanistan June 4, 2011. Snyder was 20 years old.

This is Army Staff Sgt. Nicholas Reid, of Brockport.

Reid was 26 years old when he died on Dec. 13, 2012 in Germany from wounds suffered days earlier in Afghanistan.

Army Private First Class Daniel Rivera died on Oct. 18, 2009 in Iraq.

Rivera went to Canandaigua Academy before joining the army.

Next, News10NBC is remembering Navy Boatswain's Mate First Class Michael Pernaselli from Brighton.

Pernaselli was killed on April 24, 2004 in the Persian Gulf. He was 27 years old.

From Spencerport, Army Staff Sgt. Nekl Allen died Sept. 12, 2009 at 29 years old in Afghanistan after serving two tours in Iraq.

Allen was also a wrestler and football player for Churchville-Chili High School.

First Class Theodore Matthew Glende of Rochester was 23 years old when he was killed in the line of duty on July 27, 2012 in Afghanistan.

Javier Ortiz Rivera, a Marine staff sergeant from Rochester, was killed by a roadside bomb on Nov. 16, 2010 in Afghanistan. He was 26 years old.

Army Private First Class Jason Hasenauer of Hilton died at 21 years old on Dec. 28, 2005 in Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. Heath McMillin, of Clifton Springs, died on July 27, 2003 at 29 years old.

Marine Corporal Jason Dunham of Scio, was 22 years old when he died.

Dunham died in Iraq in April of 2004 while covering a grenade with his helmet and body to save his fellow marines. He received the medal of honor after his death.

News10NBC is next honoring three New York Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officers who died in a helicopter in Mendon.

Christian Koch, Steven Skoda and Daniel Prial died serving our country during a training exercise in January of 2021.

Army Staff Sgt. Steve Butcher Jr. was killed by a roadside bomb in May of 2007 while serving in operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 27 years old.

Butcher graduated from Penfield High School and also attended Charles Finney and McQuaid.

Pittsford native Terry Brayman, a U.S. Air Force Major, was one of eight service members killed in an osprey crash off the coast of Japan during a training mission on Nov. 29, 2023. He was 32 years old.

Army Reserve Specialist Ryan Jayne of Campbell was killed by a roadside bomb Nov. 3, 2012 at 22 years old.

Killed in Iraq on May 5, 2006, Army Reserve Specialist Teodoro "Tito," Torres grew up in Rochester and went to Bishop Kearney High School.

Torres began his army reserve career in 1998 in Rochester, and was 28 years old when he died.

Eastridge High School graduate Reynold Armand was a Marine Corporal who died Aug. 7, 2007 while serving in Iraq.

Armand was 21 years old when he died.

Army Sgt. Jonathan Lootens of Lyons died on Oct. 15, 2006 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Iraq.

Lootens was 25 years old when he died.

Lastly, News10NBC is honoring Army Captain Bruce Clark of Spencerport.

Clark died at the age of 43 on May 1, 2012 while serving in Afghanistan.

News10NBC thanks all these local men and women, along with all the other military personnel who have died serving their country, in making the ultimate sacrifice.

The post News10NBC honors local military personnel killed in the line of duty appeared first on WHEC.com.

<https://www.wysl1040.com/news10nbc-honors-local-military-personnel-killed-in-the-line-of-duty/>

[Return to top](#)

---

**New Lake George memorial honors fallen 18th-century war heroes**

**WRGB, May 22, 2026 :**

LAKE GEORGE, NY (WRGB) -- At Lake George Battlefield Park, a solemn ceremony Friday honored 44 soldiers who died in 1776—men whose names may be lost to history, but whose sacrifice is now permanently recognized.

“It was the duty 250 years ago to take up arms for the birth of this great nation,” said New York Army National Guard Chaplain Major Robert Volk. “And it is our duty today to bear witness to lay these American heroes to rest.”

The remains, discovered on Courtland Street, are believed to belong to soldiers who died at a Continental Army smallpox hospital during the Revolutionary War. While their identities remain unknown, Lake George Mayor Ray Perry said clues uncovered at the site help tell part of their story.

“Although the identities of those uncovered at Courtland Street are unknown, several uniform buttons were found,” Perry said. “Indicative of Pennsylvania Regiment petticoat buttons.”

The reinterment marks the culmination of the “Repose of the Fallen” project, a process that took more than seven years to complete. New York State Deputy Secretary of State Kisha Santiago emphasized the broader significance of the effort, noting that preserving history offers future generations a deeper understanding of the nation’s beginnings.

“To be in a location like this and recognize how large the world is, how big the sacrifices have been made well before us, to get us to live in the beautiful country that we do, is just an incredibly meaningful and important part,” Santiago said.

Lake George played a pivotal role in the fight for independence, and officials say the work is far from over. Many more soldiers are believed to be buried in the area, still undiscovered. For Chaplain Volk, the reinterment is not just a conclusion—it’s a commitment.

“So we recognize that, as we found these 44, there are still many who have not been found,” Volk said. “So we never give up the search for them. We never give up the duty that we have to honor them and their memory.”

Officials say the remains of at least 1,000 soldiers are still believed to be buried in and around Lake George. When they are found, there is now a dedicated place for them to be laid to rest alongside their fellow soldiers—ensuring their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

<https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/lake-george-ceremony-honors-fallen-soldiers-from-18th-century-revolutionary-war-french-and-indian-war-wrgb>

[Return to top](#)

---

**3-142 Aviation flyover at Citi Field ( YouTube)**

**Mets , May 25, 2026 :**

Memorial Day Flyover ???? #baseball #america #usa

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/gzOzRrW7YQk>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **BOCES, NY National Guard host event at rec park**

**Malone Telegram, May 28, 2026 :**

MALONE — Students from Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES component districts on Wednesday spent the day learning about career opportunities at an event hosted by BOCES and the New York Army National Guard.

The event was held at the Malone Rec Park and included representatives from law enforcement, the military, and first responders set up around one of the park's fields, while indoors, at the Malone Civic Center, students had a chance to learn about jobs with area businesses, local government agencies and regional healthcare providers.....

*NOTE: this item is behind a pay wall*

[https://www.mymalonetelegram.com/top\\_stories/boces-ny-national-guard-host-event-at-rec-park/article\\_97b3e4a2-63ac-543b-ab55-3452b9ffd188.html](https://www.mymalonetelegram.com/top_stories/boces-ny-national-guard-host-event-at-rec-park/article_97b3e4a2-63ac-543b-ab55-3452b9ffd188.html)

[Return to top](#)

---

## **BOCES, National Guard host event in Malone**

**Plattsburgh Press Republican, May 28,2026 :**

MALONE — Students from Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES component districts on Wednesday spent the day learning about career opportunities at an event hosted by BOCES and the New York Army National Guard.

The event was held at the Malone Rec Park and included representatives from law enforcement, the military, and first responders set up around one of the park's fields, while indoors, at the Malone Civic Center, students had a chance to learn about jobs with area businesses, local government agencies and regional healthcare providers.

“Guard-X,” is an interactive event showcasing military technology, equipment, and career opportunities in partnership with the New York Army National Guard, according to a press release from FEH BOCES.

Featured exhibits and demonstrations, located around the park on Wednesday, included a Black Hawk helicopter, Humvees, a climbing wall, an Explosive Ordinance Disposal robot, and rescue vehicles from local fire departments including Malone Callfiremen's ladder truck and an all-terrain vehicle from the Chateaugay Fire Department.

Students from FEH BOCES component districts, including Franklin Academy, Salmon River, Brushton-Moira, Chateaugay and St. Regis Falls were on hand for the event.

This week's event in Malone was the second time BOCES has worked with the New York Army National Guard to host a career focused day, according to Heather Gonia, a public information specialist with FEH BOCES, who said last year was the first time the two groups hosted an event in Malone.

"Last year was our first time planning this and this year we added more law enforcement agencies and our local fire departments," Gonia told the Telegram, "It's local, state and federal law enforcement and we added in the fire departments because we really want to have an opportunity for students to ask questions. Maybe they are intimidated to stop by the fire station to ask about volunteering and in this setting it's easier. A lot of our volunteer groups are looking for more volunteers so this is good for them too."

Gonia said FEH BOCES has two campuses, one in Malone and one in Saranac Lake, with students from both campuses on hand for Wednesday's event.

"It's been a great day, all of our Career and Technical Education students are coming through and Franklin Academy has been bringing all of their students too, and Salmon River also brought a bus," she said, "While we do have participation from all of the districts most of the students are juniors and seniors in the Career and Technical Education program."

Gonia said it was nice to see law enforcement from last year's event return to the rec park on Wednesday.

"A lot of them were here last year too, and with the guard you have people from as far away as New York City, Buffalo and some of the equipment here today came up from the Pennsylvania line," she said, "We started planning this event the day last year's event ended."

Gonia said it's nice to see students excited and involved with the different exhibits.

"It's been a fantastic day. It's great to see all of the students participating and asking questions," she said, "There's a Buzz Box in the back that shows students if they're in the National Guard cosmetology is a career path, culinary, natural resources. We have construction vehicles here too that relate to a whole bunch of CTE programs."

According to Gonia, Shawn McMahon, director of CTE programs at FEH BOCES, attended a similar event at BOCES Washington Saratoga a couple years ago, prompting the local BOCES to start planning an event of their own.

“He brought me back the poster and said let’s do this and I ran with it,” she said, “It was very well received and St. Lawrence BOCES reached out to me in September to help plan their own.”

[https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/boces-national-guard-host-event-in-malone/article\\_8000f2ef-918d-4641-a99a-48e7f5076adc.html](https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/boces-national-guard-host-event-in-malone/article_8000f2ef-918d-4641-a99a-48e7f5076adc.html)

[Return to top](#)

---

## **Cohoes man receives Academic Achievement Award at NYSP graduation**

**WTEN, May 28, 2026 :**

ALBANY, N.Y. (NEWS10) — 175 new troopers graduated from the Basic School of the New York State Police Academy on Thursday. The ceremony was held at the Empire Plaza Convention Center in Albany. This was the 218th session of the school.

“Today’s graduation is the culmination of six months of difficult classwork, physical training and sacrifice, and we now welcome our newest members to one of the most prestigious and well-respected law enforcement agencies in the nation,” New York State Police Superintendent Steven James said. “I am confident they are equipped to carry out our mission to serve our communities with the same professionalism and pride the State Police have exhibited for the past 109 years.”

Awards were also presented during the graduation ceremony. A firearm was awarded to each recipient.

The Firearms Proficiency Award went to Trooper Mark D’Angelo, 22, of Manorville. The award goes to the highest level of performance in all phases of firearms training.

The recipient of the Investigator Joseph T. Aversa Physical Fitness Award was John Jagdeo, 21, of Brooklyn. It goes to the person who attained the highest degree of physical fitness during the Physical Training Program at the Academy.

The student representative is selected by their peers to represent them during graduation exercises. The recipient was Trooper Phillip White, 36, of Malone

A Capital Region man was given the Academic Achievement Award, which goes to the highest level of academic performance during Academy training. Trooper Tyler Mack, 25, of Cohoes, achieved an overall academic average of 95.83 percent. Prior to joining the New York State Police, Mack was an Investigative Analyst with the New York National Guard Counter Drug Task Force.

Now that they’ve graduated, the new troopers will start to report for field duty on May 30. For the next 10 weeks, they will be evaluated under a field-training program supervised by senior Field Training Officers

<https://www.news10.com/news/ny-news/cohoes-man-receives-academic-achievement-award-at-nysp-graduation/>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **New York National Guard**

### **Duty Calls: Buglers sought to play taps at military funerals**

**Times Union, May 25, 2026 :**

Photo Caption: Maj. Gen. Gary Chartlon II and Command Chief Master Sgt. Michael Hewson salute during a Memorial Day ceremony in Latham Thursday.

Several Capital Region musicians have sounded a call for more volunteers to play taps during military funerals honoring veterans, military retirees and active-duty personnel.

Allen Moon, of Gansevoort, state director of Buglers Across America; Campbell Whitford, of Troy, a BAA member; and Norm Miller, of Princetown, a bugler at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, are seeking help with honoring the end of life of those who served our nation.

A tapped version of taps is played at most veterans' and military personnel's funerals, Miller said. "A live bugler is more meaningful for the deceased veterans' families."

"We need more buglers to herald the end of life of those who served our nation," said Miller, one of only two buglers available at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville.

Richard H. Schneider's book "Taps: Notes from a Nation's Heart" summarizes the impact of taps being performed at funerals: "At one time or another, every American has been touched by (taps), its haunting melody — its clear, sad tones conjuring up memories of loved ones lost, installing hope, bringing comfort and peace."

Miller and Ernie Belanger, of Gansevoort, also a member of the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard, are the only two buglers available to play live taps during more than 1,000 funerals at the Saratoga National Cemetery each year. As mandated by federal law, a recorded version of taps is played during the other military funerals.

Moon, a retired 109th Airlift Wing master sergeant and 109th Honor Guard member, performed at hundreds of military funerals.

Whitford, a retired music teacher, has volunteered to play the 21-note taps at more than 450 military funerals.

Miller, a retired Air Force recruiter, has performed at more than 2,200 funerals during an 18-year period.

Bugles Across America has only nine Capital Region buglers and 46 other buglers available in the state, Moon says. Nationally, there are 1,500 BAA buglers.

Federal law mandates at least a two-member military Honor Guard that includes the folding of an American flag and its presentation to the next of kin, and rendition of taps via a recording in the absence of the bugler during a veteran's funeral, according to Moon. A seven-to-10-member Honor Guard team serves a military retiree's funeral, and a full 20-member team is available for active-duty members. Honor Guard details fold and present an American flag to next of kin, carry a casket, and do firing squad duty. A bugler performs when available.

"The demand for buglers grows every year, and Bugles Across America gets more requests," said Moon.

"Last year, Bugles Across America honored more than 350,000 veterans," he added. "That's a 66% increase from the previous year."

"Bugles Across America buglers can respond to requests to perform at veterans' funerals within a 95-mile radius," says Whitford.

New York State Funeral Association funeral directors are aware of the availability of BAA buglers, Moon adds.

"We sure can use more buglers," says Whitford.

Musicians interested in helping Bugles Across America respond to requests should contact Moon at 518-879-4165 or [amoon.baa.nys@gmail.com](mailto:amoon.baa.nys@gmail.com), or Campbell at 518-244-5019 or [cam5@frontiernet.net](mailto:cam5@frontiernet.net).

Army National Guard Honor Guard, Air National Guard Honor Guard, other military Honor Guard teams, as well as funeral directors, can request a bugler through Bugles Across America, Whitford says.

More buglers are needed at the Saratoga National Cemetery. A bugler must be a veteran to become a member of the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard Association. For information, visit [snchga.org](http://snchga.org) or call Art Dutcher at 518-253-3203 or Scott Lamb, cemetery director, at 518-581-9128 ext. 22207.

The tune wasn't always called taps.

General Daniel Butterfield, a Union College graduate from Albany, is credited with creating the haunting and heartfelt 24-note tune during the Civil War, Schneider writes in his book. It was originally called "Drum Taps," when a drum was played right after taps was played on a bugle. It was later called "Butterfield's Lullaby," and sometimes called "Extinguished Light" when performed at the end of a duty day. The tune now heralds the end of a duty day at military bases and, mostly, the end of life.

## **Memorial Day ceremony**

More than 250 soldiers, airmen, Naval Militia members and civilian workers marked Memorial Day early on Thursday during a ceremony at the Fallen Soldier Memorial outside of the New York National Guard Headquarters in Latham.

Maj. Gen. Gary Charlton II, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hewson read the names of New York Army and Air National Guard members as well as civilian workers who passed during the past year.

Although they did not die in combat, "they were our comrades in arms," said Air National Guard Capt. Joshua Speziale, the master of ceremonies.

Among those names was Army Guard Maj. Sorrfly Davius. Davius experienced a medical emergency while on duty with the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters in Kuwait during the opening days of the current conflict with Iran. Charlton noted the history of Memorial Day, which is being marked Monday, May 25.

The holiday originated in April 1866 in Waterloo, when it was first called Decoration Day services in April 1866 to honor the 58 local men who died in the Civil War.

That same month in Columbus, Ga., women there marked the graves of 200 Confederate soldiers. Even in a divided nation, the urge to remember the dead was there on both sides, Charlton said.

Over time, the name changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day, but the holiday marked the 620,000 Americans killed during the Civil War.

But in the 20th Century that changed, Charlton told his listeners.

While other countries settled on Nov. 11 as a Remembrance Day to mark those war dead, in the United States, the meaning of Memorial Day changed to embrace the 116,000 killed in what was called the Great War (World War I), Charlton said.

After World War II, an additional 407,000 were honored, followed by 36,000 dead from the Korean War, more than 58,000 from Vietnam and 7,000 in the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the Global War on Terror, 39 members of the New York Army and Air National Guard gave their lives, according to Charlton.

Afterward, Charlton and Hewson placed a wreath at the memorial as Army National Guard Stagg Sgt. Christian Luce, a trumpet player with the 42nd Infantry Division Band, sounded taps.

Luce has performed the iconic bugle call numerous other times.

He said every time he performs taps, whether for a specific military funeral or ceremony, "it's special. It's probably the most important thing I get to do as a trumpet player in the band and in the Honor Guard. I consider it a privilege every time."

Taking time out to remember those who gave their lives in war is always important, said Air Guard Master Sgt. Elizabeth Hanrahan after the ceremony.

“It’s great to honor those who died,” Hanrahan said. “It’s always good to pay your respects.”

Private 1st Class Kristol Bacon, who set up the sound system for the ceremony, agreed. “It’s important to show remembrance for the soldiers who’ve fallen,” she said.

“Take a moment to think about those who wore the uniform and gave everything to this country,” Charlton urged.

News of your troops and units can be sent to Times Union, Duty Calls, Terry Brown, Box 15000, Albany, NY 12212 or [brownt@timesunion.com](mailto:brownt@timesunion.com).

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/duty-calls-buglers-sought-play-taps-military-22272177.php>

[Return to top](#)

---

## **Veterans**

### **South Shore Press Columnist Receives State Honor**

**South Shore Press, May 26, 2026 |:**

South Shore Press Columnist Receives State Honor

By Robert Chartuk | May 26, 2026 | Local

South Shore Press columnist Richard Acritelli, right, was recently inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame by Senator Anthony Palumbo. | State Senate

For his military service, decades of teaching, and longstanding commitment to preserving the stories of America’s veterans, South Shore Press history columnist and “Fog of War and Humanity” host Richard Acritelli was recently inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame by State Senator Anthony Palumbo.

The honor was presented during the Senate’s 2026 Veterans Hall of Fame ceremony, where Palumbo recognized Acritelli as the First Senate District’s inductee for his contributions to education, military history and veterans advocacy across Long Island.

“His passion for history and service to our veterans has helped shape our region for generations to come,” Palumbo said in announcing the recognition.

Acritelli, a Wading River resident, served in both the United States Army Reserve and the New York Air National Guard, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. During his years of

service, he hauled jet fuel, munitions and heavy materials throughout the East Coast while promoting physical fitness within his units.

Beyond the military, Acritelli has spent nearly 25 years teaching U.S. History and Government at Rocky Point High School, where he also serves as a coach, advisor and founder of several student leadership programs. He has additionally taught for 14 years as an adjunct professor at Suffolk County Community College and has designed graduate-level courses through the New York Center for Teacher Development.

Acritelli is also widely known for hosting the “Fog of War and Humanity” podcast series produced through the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, as well as for writing the weekly “History Lessons” column for the South Shore Press.

Recently, he helped host the grand opening of the new wing of the VFW Post 6249 Military History Museum, an expanded exhibit space preserving military artifacts and the stories of veterans from Long Island and beyond.

Palumbo credited Acritelli as one of the driving forces behind the museum’s expansion and praised his continued efforts to educate future generations about military history and sacrifice.

“It was my privilege to induct Richard Acritelli for the New York State Senate’s Veterans Hall of Fame for his service to our nation, his continued support of our veterans, veteran organizations, and important efforts to expand the public’s knowledge and reverence for our veterans and military history,” Palumbo said.

Earlier this year, Acritelli was also honored by Humanity Matters TV with its Outstanding Host Award during the organization’s 250th podcast celebration.

<https://southshorepress.com/stories/682388924-south-shore-press-columnist-receives-state-honor>

[Return to top](#)

---