



# NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

July 2010

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120<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

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• **T**he National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter honored Assemblyman Magnarelli with a reception for sponsoring legislation (A11098) that addresses the lack of integrated mental health and substance abuse services for veterans returning from combat.

At least one in three Iraq veterans and one in nine Afghanistan veterans will face mental health issues like depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress, according to the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. The current mental health service delivery does not meet the needs of veterans. The bill calls for annual state interagency planning efforts and proposes a process of recognizing veterans' needs and developing services to match.

The National Association of Social Workers is taking the initiative to conduct training about military culture and veterans' needs by creating programs for veterans' returning from war zones.

"Together our goal is to be able to thank veterans for the sacrifices they made for this country by providing them with the services they need to transition from military service into civilian life while still maintaining pride for what they have accomplished as a soldier," said Assemblyman Magnarelli.



**Assemblyman Magnarelli receives a plaque from the National Association of Social Workers Executive Director, Reinaldo Cardona and Eileen Clinton, Program Coordinator, MSSNY (Medical Society of the State of New York).**



• **T**he Assembly welcomed and honored the more than 65,000 New York State women veterans during a ceremony in the chamber. The Assembly passed two resolutions honoring the service of New York's women veterans. The first declares June 12, 2010, "Women Veterans' Recognition Day" (K.1475) and the other recognizes as active military duty the service provided by the women of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II (K.1418).

"Women have stepped up to the plate and done their part in protecting, defending and supporting our country in varied ways," said Assemblyman Magnarelli, chair of the Veterans' Committee. "The contributions made by these remarkable mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and friends allow all of us to enjoy the often taken-for-granted freedoms and security of our daily lives."



• **S**unnycrest Ice Rink is receiving renovations thanks to a grant secured by Assemblyman Magnarelli. Assemblyman Magnarelli recently visited the rink to see the concrete being poured to create the floor below the ice rink. He spoke with Bill McGinnis, owner of McGinnis Nelson Construction, the construction manager employed on the project.



• **A**ssemblyman Magnarelli recently spoke at a ceremony celebrating an \$8.5 million federal grant to create a Centro Transfer Hub at the corner of Warren and Adams Street. In the photo above from left to right are Frank Kobliski, Centro executive director, and Congressman Dan Maffei, who secured the grant.

## CNY Volunteer Fair

## SAVE THE DATE

## CNY Veterans Parade

A volunteer fair will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Sept. 21** at the Skydeck of Carousel Center. Organizations in need of volunteers will have tables with information. People wishing to volunteer will find dozens of organizations in need of help.



The 2010 CNY Veterans Parade will be held at noon, Saturday, **Nov. 6** on Salina Street in Downtown Syracuse. Veterans, veterans' organizations and military units are invited to participate.

To sign up or for more information call 428-9651 or email [abdell@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:abdell@assembly.state.ny.us)

## Bill's Bills

Legislation Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored during the 2010 Session passed both the Assembly and Senate.

- **A356 Technology Employment Community Hub**

The legislation would create the Technology Employment Community Hub (TECH) Centers Program to reconstruct or improve existing laboratory facilities for institutions providing targeted educational, occupational or training services for those wishing to become more marketable in the workforce. The program would authorize grants up to \$100,000 to be awarded on a competitive basis to community colleges.

- **A247 Database of Intellectual Property**

The goal of this legislation is to establish and maintain a public and interactive database of intellectual property generated by state employees or developed through state funded research. Countless products and processes are developed with funds invested by the state, but often do not get beyond the development stage. Individuals and companies interested in commercializing any of the property would have a comprehensive and current database where all such items and appropriate contacts are listed.

- **A11098 Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act**

This bill requires the New York State Veterans' Affairs Commission to develop and update an interagency plan to improve outreach, assessment, and care for veterans who are experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse problems. At least one in three Iraq veterans and one in nine Afghanistan veterans will face mental health issues like depression, anxiety, or post traumatic stress disorder.

- **9502-A Information Collection Modernization Study**

This bill establishes an interagency report analyzing the opportunities to modernize and streamline information collection by state agencies. The report will find ways to improve efficiency, better share collected data and ultimately reduce paperwork.

- **A5520 Gold Alert**

This legislation establishes an alert system for missing vulnerable adults, who have cognitive impairments. Within 24 hours, alerts would be sent out through the media and to law enforcement officials in neighboring areas, similar to the Amber Alert System. Other states with similar laws include Illinois, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Texas.

- **A10754 Cremated Veterans Remains**

Currently unclaimed remains of veterans are cremated and backlogged by funeral directors. This bill would create a system which they could contact veterans' organizations to have the remains buried in a veterans' cemetery. Veterans who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces deserve a proper burial.

- **A9991 Science and Tech Law Center**

The bill establishes the technology commercialization clinic, to assist universities, entrepreneurs and companies in commercializing new products by conducting research and analysis of the commercial development of early-stage technologies.



- **A** restructured partnership to oversee the cleanup of Onondaga Lake was announced earlier this month. Assemblyman Magnarelli joined Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Assemblyman Al Stirpe, Bill Smith from Citizens Campaign, and Congressman Dan Maffei in announcing the introduction of the Onondaga Lake Restoration Act that would place the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in charge of the management conference. The partnership would ensure participation by state and local governments, local residents, environmental groups and the Onondaga Nation.

“Cleaning Onondaga Lake is of great priority to the entire Central New York area. It is nice to see this effort being pushed forward successfully,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “Cleaning Onondaga Lake also correlates to maintaining the area’s emphasis on environmentally friendly projects and business.”

The EPA will convene a council that will oversee the restoration, conservation and management of the clean up of Onondaga Lake.



- **A**ttorney General Andrew Cuomo recently visited Syracuse to announce expanded investigations into pension padding schemes. He said workers across the state may be committing fraud when they significantly inflate salaries with overtime, in their final years of employment, in an effort to boost their pension payments after retirement.

“It’s just not right,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli, pointing to graphs which depicted common pension padding schemes. “It’s making taxpayers foot the bill for public employees who wrongly take advantage of the system.”

### About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 120<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood and Valley areas of the City of Syracuse, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008. During his previous five terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli’s District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.