

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

BETTY JEAN GRANT

*Chair of the Legislature
2nd District Legislator*



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July 10, 2012

Robert M. Graber, Clerk
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St. – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Mr. Graber:

As Chair of the Erie County Legislature, I am hereby announcing the creation of an ad hoc committee titled "VALER 4 Valor." VALER is an acronym for Veterans' Advocacy, Linkage & E-Empowerment Resource. The number "4" represents the four pillars of empowerment outlined in the narrative of the Erie County Office of Veteran's Affairs (see Erie County 2012 Budget Book A, pp. 241-244). Valor connotes "personal bravery" – a quality associated with those individuals who volunteer to serve our nation in the military.

VALER 4 Valor will be composed of representatives from the veterans' community in Erie County, under the leadership of the following veterans: the Honorable Thomas J. Mazur, Majority Leader of the Erie County Legislature; the Honorable John J. Mills, Minority Leader of the Erie County Legislature and former Erie County Legislator Daniel M. Kozub. Carlos Benitez, Director of the Erie County Office of Veteran's Affairs, Patrick Welch, Ph.D., Director of The Center for Veterans and Veteran Family Services at Daemen College and Sandi Williams, life member of Disabled American Veterans, will play key advisory roles in focusing the priorities of this ad hoc committee.

The names of a diverse representation of veterans and veteran advocates will fill out the remaining membership of the ad hoc committee. In addition to the aforementioned veterans, appointees include, but will not be limited to, the following citizen-veterans who are active in the Erie County veterans' community:

Paulette Woods
139 Oxford Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

Janet Smith
206 Ivyhurst Road
Amherst, NY 14226

Doris Cummings-Ford
507 Highgate Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215

Deberra Ransom
34 Richlawn Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

Ron Bassham
6312 S. Whitham Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in designating legislative staff support for this veterans initiative. The first meeting will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at Old County Hall – 4th Floor, 92 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty Jean Grant".

Betty Jean Grant, Chair
Erie County Legislature