

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, AUGUST 30, 2018

Recognizing "Tribute Day 2018" for the Erie County Retired Seniors Volunteer Program

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Senior Services was created in 1971 and subsequently designated an Area Agency on Aging under Title III of the Older Americans Act, and the primary responsibilities of the department under the Older Americans Act and New York State Community Services for the Elderly Programs are on planning, advocacy, and coordination activities for senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, the department is responsible for developing and implementing a plan of services which is responsive to the priority needs of older persons in Erie County, to advocate on behalf of the needs of older persons by monitoring, evaluating, and commenting on policies, programs, and community actions which affect the elderly in Erie County, to represent the needs, interests, and concerns of older persons to public officials and others, and to coordinate planning and service activities with other agencies and organizations to promote the most efficient use of existing resources and to promote new and expanded benefits to the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the department's mission is to promote the well-being of all older adults through coordinated and cost-effective services which enhance their independence, dignity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, one of the most successful programs conducted by the Department of Senior Services is its Retired Seniors Volunteer Program ("RSVP"), which connects Erie County seniors with volunteer opportunities; and

WHEREAS, RSVP provides opportunities for people 55 and over to make a difference in their community through volunteer service. RSVP volunteers contribute anywhere from a few to over forty hours a week, serving through schools, day care centers, police departments, hospitals and other nonprofit and public organizations to help meet critical community needs. RSVP matches the personal interests and skills of older Americans with opportunities to help solve community problems and offers supplemental insurance while on duty, and on-the-job training from the agency or organization where volunteers are placed; and

WHEREAS, Erie County RSVP offers a full range of volunteer opportunities with over 90 local non-profit and public organizations and RSVP volunteers choose how and where they serve; and

WHEREAS, RSVP volunteers bring donated food from restaurants and stores to soup kitchens, etc. to alleviate hunger, help children learn to read or improve math skills, show people how to observe nature and ask questions by acting as tour guides and docents at nature preserves, the zoo, or varied museums, make friendly phone calls to alleviate loneliness, deliver meals to people who are unable to leave their homes, drive vans to transport elderly and disabled persons to places they need to go, and many other important tasks; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2018, RSVP will hold its 2018 Tribute Day at the Matthew Glab Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Lackawanna where the RSVP volunteers will be recognized and honored for their service to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby mark August 30, 2018 as "Tribute Day 2018" in Buffalo and Erie County, express our thanks and gratitude to the Department of Senior Services and its dedicated and intrepid RSVP volunteers for their service, and wishes them well for many more years of community service and success in serving the seniors in our county.

Hon. Peter J. Savage, III
Chair of the Legislature
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Hon. April N.M. Baskin
Majority Leader
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Hon. Barbara Miller-Williams
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Hon. Joseph C. Lorigo
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Erie County Legislator, 10th District

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Hon. Patrick B. Burke
Erie County Legislator, 7th District

Hon. John Bruso
Erie County Legislator, 8th District

Hon. Lynne M. Dixon
Erie County Legislator, 9th District

Hon. John J. Mills
Erie County Legislator, 11th District

Hon. Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature