



Dear Friend:

The New Year is finally here! I hope you enjoyed your holidays and had an even better 2016. It's time to look to our future and the many goals that we want to accomplish for the 128th district and New York State. With the Legislative Session and Budget meetings underway, I want my constituents to know that you continue to have my endless support and attention, both in Albany and here at home in the district.

**Speaking of looking to the future and moving forward, please be reminded that on February 11<sup>th</sup> residents in the 315 area code are now required to dial the area code when making all phone calls. Beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>, numbers in the new area code of 680 will begin to be issued.**

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to my office. I want to hear from my constituents on what you would like see accomplished in Albany. Your voice and opinions matters to me!

Warm Regards,  
Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter



## Legislative Spotlight

### **Passed Legislation:**

**A.1129** My health insurance bill passed unanimously in the Assembly on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and is currently awaiting a Senate vote. This bill limits the denial of coverage of treatment for which pre-authorization was granted. Essentially, this means you won't be denied coverage if you have a serious illness and need to be treated for other associated symptoms.

### **Reintroduction of Legislation:**

(I am currently reintroducing six bills to the Assembly floor)

**A.1080** Requires the State University of New York and the City University of New York to examine and conduct a study on the availability of campus services, programs and resources for veteran students.

**A.1081** Allows individuals to make a gift on their personal tax form for the New York State farm to school and garden fund.

**A.1082** Requires the Commissioner of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and the Commissioner of Health, to develop a plan for reimbursement of transportation services to and from day programs for those with developmental disabilities.

**A.1083** Establishes a task force on safety in school transportation.

**A.1105** Waives New York state application fees for honorably discharged veterans.

**A.1108** Requires agencies that provide grants and tax expenditures to make comprehensive information on these grants and expenditures accessible to the public on a searchable website.

### **Pending Legislation:**

**Building Owner Contact Information:** This bill would require building owners and landlords to give their contact information to tenants.

**Deficient Landlord Penalties:** This bill that would allow tenants to deduct water payments from a deficient landlord.

**Water Efficiency Standards:** One of the biggest issues in our district is making sure we have safe drinking water for our children and our families. For this reason, I have drafted a bill that focuses on increasing our water efficiency standards by making stricter rules.

**Disabled Housing:** I am working on a bill that relates to people with disabilities being able to terminate their leases without penalty if the proper accommodations are not met.

### **Legislative Resolutions:**

Congratulating the **Fayetteville-Manlius Girls Varsity Cross Country Team** upon the occasion of winning the 2016 Nike Cross Nationals

Honoring Westhill Girls Varsity Basketball Coach **Sue Ludwig** upon the occasion of 500 career wins.



## Business Spotlight



This past month, I visited **Strong Hearts Cafe**, the area's only 100% Vegan Café. They are located at 719 East Genesee Street, just a few doors down from my office. I was able to spend some time with one of the co-owners, Joel Capolongo. We had a great conversation about the benefits and challenges of being a small business owner, the fondness for the location of Strong Hearts and the ideals and premise behind the creation of the business by Joel and his business partner, Nick Ryan.

The name Strong Hearts is based partly on the Native American Lakota Sioux Chief Crazy Horse and a quote attributed to him, "It is a good day to fight! It is a good day to die! Strong hearts, brave hearts, to the front! Weak hearts and cowards, to the rear!" The other meaning behind the name is the owners feel their products literally promote "strong hearts." Another fun fact: all milkshakes on the cafe's menu are named after figures the with Strong Hearts!

We also talked about Strong Hearts new social justice charity initiative. Throughout every month in 2017, they will be donating 50% of their proceeds from one days worth of sales from both their locations to a local or regional nonprofit group that they believe helps makes the community a better place. On **February 13<sup>th</sup>**, they will be donating 50% of their day's profits to InterFaith Works, and will be doing the same at Strong Hearts on the Hill, which is located right near SU's campus, on **February 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## Dr. King Community Awards

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Syracuse City School District honored students with Dr. King Community Awards at Nottingham High School. Students of all ages demonstrated their dedication to the community. It's important we recognize their admirable acts and encourage those who have made a difference at such a young age as they strive to make our future better.



**Pictured Left:** Superintendent Jaime Alicea and Assemblywoman Hunter

**Pictured Below:** Dr. King Community Award Winners



## Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Dinner

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, **Pack 156 of Jamesville, NY** held their Annual Blue and Gold Dinner. During the dinner and ceremony, four local Cub Scouts (Webelos II) were honored for advancing to **Boy Scouts, Troop 22**. Last year, Pack 156 raised over \$775 for the Jamesville Food Pantry during their annual food drive and bottle/can return. They were able to help provide food for 90 families during the holidays. Congratulations to (pictured left to right) Michael Cohen, Will Moser, Justin Lambert, and Jack Harp, on their accomplishments and advancement to Boy Scouts!



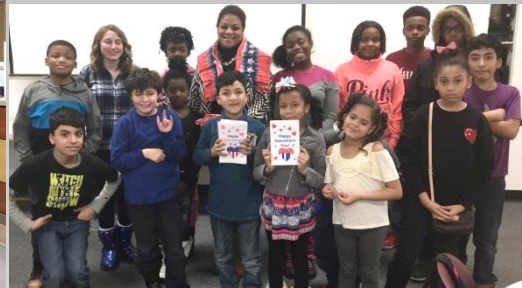


# Valentines for Veterans

As a U.S. Army veteran, I know firsthand how important it is to support our veterans. This year, I expanded my Valentines for Veterans program to include all grade levels at **Woodland Elementary School** in the **ESM School District** and the **Kid's Club** afterschool program at the **Westcott Community Center**. The children colored and wrote messages on 500 valentines that were delivered to the **Syracuse V.A. Medical Center** and canteen at **Clear Path for Veterans**. The **Cpl. Kyle R. Schneider Foundation** has also mailed some of the valentines to **Camp Casey in Afghanistan**. There is lots of love and appreciate to spread and this is such a great way to do it!



**Pictured: Left: Package of Valentines heading to Camp Casey; Bottom Left: Delivering at VA Medical Center; Bottom Middle: Westcott Community Center Kid's Club; Bottom Right: Woodland Elementary Kindergarten Class**



## OCM BOCES

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, I served as a guest for the Syracuse/CNY Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute at the OCM BOCES main campus. The purpose of this session was for students to gain insight on what is needed to be a leader in the community. That same morning, I also participated in a Legislative forum at BOCES, discussing New York State's budget, and taking Q&A with school board members and school district superintendents.



## Exceptional Women of CNY Awards

I will be hosting the Exceptional Women of Central New York and Mother of the Year awards on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance to recognize and thank the women in our lives who support their families and neighbors, give back to the community and are exemplary role models.

Nominees must reside in the 128th Assembly District. Women can be nominated for their contributions to any field, including education, business, volunteerism and military service. There will also be an award for Mother of the Year. Nominations can be submitted online by Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at [tinyurl.com/ExceptionalWomenofCNY](http://tinyurl.com/ExceptionalWomenofCNY).



**REMINDER:** We are still accepting deer control surveys, so if you are a resident in the East Side of Syracuse or the Town of Dewitt, please complete the survey that was mailed to your home. You can also do so at online at: [tinyurl.com/CNYDeerSurvey](http://tinyurl.com/CNYDeerSurvey)

### Contact Me:

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