



NEWS



December

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From Bill Magnarelli

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129th Assembly District

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Looking Ahead

The holiday season is a time to focus on our families, traditions and the joy of spending time with family and friends. It is with optimism that we look toward the New Year and the hope that it brings a year of happiness and good health.

In preparation for the New Year, I am continuing to work on our shared goals of creating economic prosperity, tolerance in our community and improvements to our quality of life.

As your Assemblymember, these are the things I focus on while representing the people of the 129th District, whether I am in Albany or Syracuse. Throughout the year, I meet with many people and organizations that presented ideas for bettering our community, including, but not limited to, dealing with: the education system, access to healthcare, keeping our families safe, promoting economic development, environmental concerns and supporting our veterans. I will use this information in the new legislative session that begins in January to introduce bills where necessary, and to help pass a NYS Budget which will benefit our communities.

It is important that I hear from my constituents in these matters, which is why I annually hold town hall meetings in February and March to hear directly from the people. It's also an opportunity for citizens to hear about potential legislation, the pending budget, and other current topics. In addition to town hall meetings, early next year my office will once again send out a constituent survey containing questions about the budget and other state government issues.

For more information about this or any other state government issue, please call my office at (315) 428-9651, or email me: magnarw@nyassembly.gov. Again, Happy Holidays to all with wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Bill Magnarelli



“Direct Pay” Bill for Ambulance and Emergency Medical Service Providers Signed into Law

Legislation streamlines the process for reimbursing ambulance service providers, removing unnecessary burdens from patients

The ambulance and emergency medical service “direct pay” legislation (A.250-A/S.1466) has been signed into law. The bill changes the pay model for ambulance/EMS service providers so that they are reliably paid directly by health insurers. It ensures ambulance/EMS service providers receive the critical resources needed to continue doing their jobs safely and effectively for patients across New York State.

For ambulance companies in New York, this new law will help them get needed resources to better respond to emergency calls. The law will ensure ambulance companies that transport a sick or injured person to a hospital will now be directly paid for that service from that person’s insurance company.

Assemblyman Magnarelli has been the prime sponsor of the bill since 2015. Ambulance and EMS providers requested this legislation to provide them with financial stability and certainty when it comes to receiving insurance payments. Prior to this law, payments were sent to patients, leading to delays and lost payments.



Assemblymember Magnarelli and local ambulance companies advocated for reform in the way ambulance services got paid.

“No longer will ambulance providers have to wonder if they will be paid for the services they are mandated to provide, nor will New Yorkers be stuck in the middle when paying for out-of-network ambulance services. This legislation will strengthen the Ambulance/EMS system and provide relief to patients during some of their most stressful situations. I am proud that my colleagues and I were able to end the legislative session with this measure approved. I thank Governor Kathy Hochul for her consideration and signing it into law,” said Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli.

Ambulance service providers are on the front lines, playing a vital role in public health and safety services across New York State. This new law will provide them with financial peace-of-mind, knowing they will receive timely payment for services rendered. The law will go into effect on January 1, 2025.

Governor Signs Law Creating Commemorative Medals for Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans

In time for Veterans Day, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli creating commemorative medals for for Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans.

“Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans served with uncommon valor and courage,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “The New York State commemorative medals would offer a form of recognition and appreciation to those who served in these wars.”

The New York State Iraq War Commemorative Medal (A.119-A) will be available to military veterans who served in Iraq, or in contiguous waters or air space during March 20, 2003 through December 31, 2021.

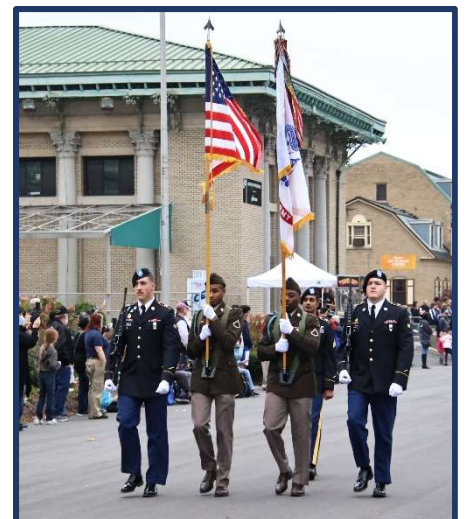
The New York State Afghanistan War Commemorative Medal (A.121-A) will be available to military veterans who served in Afghanistan, its contiguous waters, or its airspace during October 7, 2001 through August 30, 2021.

Veterans must be or have been residents of New York State, and honorably discharged from military service. If the recipient is deceased, the commemorative medal shall be presented to a designated representative.

“Our veterans deserve recognition for their courageous service and sacrifice. They deserve proper respect and recognition of their honorable service,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli.

Thanking Our Veterans

Thousands attended the CNY Veterans Parade and Expo on Nov. 4 at the NYS Fairgrounds to say “Thank You” to the men and women who have served our country through military service. The 16th Annual event hosted by Assemblyman Magnarelli included a Parade with more than 80 veterans organizations, high school marching bands and active military units. The Expo was held in the Center of Progress Building and included more than 100 local organizations that serve veterans, displays of military artifacts, a children’s area, and a breakfast by the Valley American Legion.





Service in the Community

In 2023, Assemblymember Magnarelli sponsored two paper shredding events and an electronics recycling event. These events are a way of giving community members an opportunity to recycle materials properly, while also maintaining security for important documents.

The office is looking into dates to hold paper shredding and e-recycling events in 2024.



Above: Solvay High School Football Team volunteered at the Electronics Recycling
Left: Solvay students volunteering at the Paper Shredding event at DestinyUSA in September.

Funding Needed Renovations for our City Schools



Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation increasing the bonding authorization for Phase III of the Syracuse Joint Schools Construction Board (“JSCB”) from \$300 to \$400 million. This was legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli (A.6431) at the request of the Syracuse City School District.

The State Legislature authorized a third phase of JSCB renovations in 2021 (Chapter 617 of 2021). The City of Syracuse Joint Schools Board was authorized to take on a third phase of school renovation projects. The new bill increased the dollars authorized by \$100,000. Over 90% of funds spent on these projects will be reimbursed by the state. Translation: local taxpayer dollars will be paying less than 10% of project costs.

Phase III will involve projects at the following schools:

- STEM at Blodgett Middle School
- Corcoran High School
- Delaware Primary School
- Henninger High School
- Syracuse Latin School
- Lincoln Middle School
- Nottingham High School
- Roberts PreK-8 School
- Seymour Dual Language Academy
- Webster Elementary School



“Unfortunately, due to inflation and the rising costs of materials, this amendment was needed to ensure Phase III projects are finished in the timely manner,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “The need for the renovations continues.”

The Joint School Construction Board (JSCB) is a governing body created to finance and construct large scale school reconstruction without needing to issue City bonds.

Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored the legislation that established the Syracuse JSCB in 2006. The funding provided \$225 million Phase 1 and \$300 million in Phase 2 to renovate the following schools: Central High, Blodgett, H.W. Smith Elementary, Dr. Weeks Elementary, Bellevue Elementary, Clary Middle, Corcoran High, Danforth Middle, Ed Smith K-8, Expeditionary Learning Middle, Fowler High, Frazer K-8, Grant Middle, Greystone Building, Henninger High, Huntington K-8, Nottingham High, Shea Middle, and Westside Academy at Blodgett.

JSCB Phase III now brings the total funding for city schools to \$925 million.



About New York State Assemblymember William B. Magnarelli

Assemblymember William Magnarelli represents the 129th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown areas of the City of Syracuse, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and has been reelected since then. During his terms in office, Assemblymember 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 Assemblymember Magnarelli’s District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.