Press Release

11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY (845) 638-5100 Fax: (845) 638-5675 e-mail legclerk@co.rockland.ny.us.

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Hon. Ed Day** **(845) 638-5752**
Betsy Saetre, Media Contact **(845) 638-5184**

Legislator Day Encourages Residents to Attend Flag Dedication Ceremony

Dedication of flag that was flown in Afghanistan to take place at West Nyack Post Office

New City, NY (October 13th, 2009) – Rockland County Legislator Ed Day is asking local residents to attend a Flag raising dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 24th, 11:00 AM, at the West Nyack Post Office, 720 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, that will honor both those who have served their Country and remember those still serving our Country overseas.

Legislator Day, who has been asked by organizers to moderate the ceremony, said, "This particular Flag brings home the heart, courage, and the blood of our heroes who defend our liberty, and provides a tangible symbol of remembrance to all of us that there is a war, it is personal, and we have dedicated individuals willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in our defense," adding that "this is an unique opportunity for those who truly wish to show support for our troops to do so."

The flag was received recently by Mr. Derek McLoughlin, a postal supervisor and organizer of the event, from a local family whose daughter, a U.S. Marine, was assigned to Camp Leatherneck, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. This Flag was specifically raised by the Marines in honor of the West Nyack Post Office and their ongoing efforts in support of our service men and women through their "Adopt a Platoon" program, which to date has sent hundreds of items to service people serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. McLoughlin said, "We honor the flag that flew over a Marine base in Afghanistan by acknowledging that raising it here now symbolizes what our troops are fighting for."

Legislator Day, Minority Leader of the Legislature, is also a proud "military family" member with his eldest son, Christopher, serving in Farah province, Afghanistan as a First Lieutenant and Infantry platoon leader with the 4-73 Cavalry Squadron, 82nd Airborne Division. Chris is also an Airborne qualified Army Ranger who has previously served a tour of duty in Iraq.

"As the father of a soldier, and recognizing that some of the same youngsters who I have coached years back are now serving their country alongside my son, I know this dedication will be quite poignant and deeply moving for my family. But this will also be an opportunity for neighbors and friends to celebrate the depth of their commitment; express gratitude to these wonderful young people who have placed themselves in harm's way for all of us; and to support the military families waiting for their loved ones to return," said Legislator Day.

Harriet Cornell, Chairwoman of the Rockland County Legislature, and Legislator Bob Jackson, both of whom represent the residents of West Nyack, will be in attendance. Chairwoman Cornell said, "Thanks to the leadership of the U. S. Postal Service, the West Nyack community has mobilized on many occasions and in many ways to show support for the men and women of the armed services. We applaud their efforts to help our troops as well as to remind Rockland residents of the sacrifices being made to create a more peaceful world."

A U.S. Marine Honor Guard, members of the Nam Knights of America, veterans, active members of the Armed Forces, and a number of local military families are expected to attend the dedication. Those who wish to assist in the "Adopt a Platoon" effort can contact Mr. McLoughlin at the West Nyack Post Office, (845) 358-2791.

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