

Congratulations to our 2007 inductees

Brigadier General F. David Sheppard — Class of 1970

Brigadier General F. David Sheppard is the Director of the New York State Office of Homeland Security and Commander of the 53rd Troop Command, New York State National Guard.

Prior to his current assignment he served as Deputy Adjutant General of the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs. He is credited with coordinating the joint New York Organized Militia Force emergency response to civil authorities during the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attacks.

General Sheppard began his military career after graduating in 1970 by attending U.S. Army Basic Training and subsequently graduating from U.S. Army Helicopter Pilot Flight School. In 1972 after receiving his U.S. Army pilot wings, General Sheppard reported to South Vietnam and served as combat helicopter pilot flying 841 hours during his one-year tour of duty. He completed his active duty service as an Instructor Pilot at Fort Rucker, Alabama before joining the New York Army National Guard in 1975. He served in a variety of other military assignments as well.

General Sheppard earned a bachelor's degree from the State University at Albany in 1988, certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government†— State and Local programs in 2002, and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks with a master's degree in Strategic Studies. He is a licensed fixed-wing and rotary-wing Commercial Pilot, a Foundation Board Member of Empire State College, an Executive Board Member of the Boy Scouts of America Twin Rivers Council, and an Executive Member of the New York State Governor's Medal for Valor.

His numerous military decoration and awards include: the Bronze Star for Valor, the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, an Air Medal for Valor, 15 Air Medals for Combat Missions, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, the Army Aviation Broken Wing Award, and the New York State Governor's Medal for Valor.



Officer Gregory Jensen — Class of 1973

Officer Gregory Jensen has spent more than 32 years as an officer in the Colonie Police Department, and has been a strong role model for the youth of the community. He started his law enforcement career in January, 1974 as a police dispatcher, and in October, 1979, he became a Colonie Police officer.

Officer Jensen has served in various capacities within the Police Department over the years, including: working all three patrol shifts; serving in the Internal Affairs Division, The Juvenile Investigations Unit, Community Services Unit, and the D.A.R.E. Unit. Officer Jensen is certified as a New York State Crime Prevention Specialist, where he has established long lasting relationships with the local businesses and community groups.

In his 14 years as a D.A.R.E. Officer (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) which ended in 2007, he has worked very closely with the students, faculty, parents, and administration of the South Colonie Central School District. He served as one of the School Resource Officers to the five elementary schools, Sand Creek Middle School, and Colonie Central High School, teaching thousands of children how to stay safe, and relaying the anti-drug and violence message. He has served on the individual school crisis teams, is a Parent Advocate for the Committee on Special Education, and continues to serve on the South Colonie Safe Schools Committee.

Officer Jensen is a second generation life member of the West Albany Fire Department No. 1, where he has held many line officer positions. He is a past fire chief and a past fire commissioner, and is still an active member today. He is also a member of the former West Albany Emergency Ambulance Squad, where he served many years as an EMT.

Officer Jensen is the recipient of numerous police department and community awards. In 2006 he was named Officer of the Year by the Capital District Bank Security Officers Association for his work with financial institutions on how to both prevent and safely survive a robbery. In 2007 he was named Officer of the Year by the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post, and recognized by the South Colonie Board of Education for his outstanding service to students.

