

Congressman Higgins, Senator Ortt & Mayor Pappas Honor Life and Service of Robert J. Clark

Former Alderman's Military Service Spanned Four Decades

Congressman Brian Higgins, New York State Senator Robert Ortt and City of North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur Pappas remembered the life and service of Robert "Bob" Clark, former Alderman and longtime member of the United States Armed Forces during a special ceremony at Veterans' Park.

"Bob Clark's life service represents an extraordinary commitment to his community and country," **said Congressman Higgins.** "It is our honor to see that his service and that of a devoted military family be forever remembered."

"My friend Bob was a model citizen and decorated soldier - a thankless servant who fought for his constituents and his country," **said Senator Ortt.** "I'm hopeful that this well-deserved recognition can somehow capture and honor the immeasurable contributions Bob made to our community and our nation."

"The City of North Tonawanda lost an exemplary man from our community," **stated Mayor Pappas.** "This dedication acts as a tribute in remembrance of a man who served his county and community unselfishly."

Chief Master Sergeant Bob Clark served in a number of United States military branches for a total of nearly 40 years. Clark was in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Here in the U.S. he remained in the Naval Reserve for 25 years rising to the rank of Command Master Chief. In the New York Air National Guard, he was sent to Ground Zero after the September 11th terrorist attack. And he later went on to fulfill six deployments to the Middle East for the Air Force. His service and sacrifice earned him multiple military recognitions including the Bronze Star with Combat "V" and a Purple Heart.

The City unveiled a bronze plaque dedicated to Alderman Clark. The plaque, inscribed with his name and dedicated accomplishments, is placed on a stone, under a tree along the pathway at Veterans' Park. Clark's marker is nearby the Purple Heart monument that he worked on getting erected in the park back in October 2013.

Clark was a graduate of North Tonawanda High School's class of 1963. He served as Alderman from 2013 to 2014, and he was active in a number of veteran and

community organizations including: serving as president of the North Tonawanda History Museum, a member of the Stephen Sikora Post 1322, and a parishioner at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Before his passing Bob asked Congressman Higgins' office for assistance with obtaining military service medals earned by his father, Robert Lincoln Clark, during World War II. Bob wanted to surprise his sister with the keepsakes of their father's service. Congressman Higgins presented the Clark family with: the Navy Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Navy Discharge Button and Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Bob passed away in September of 2014, at the age of 68, following a difficult battle with cancer. Bob's widow Sue, sister Diane and a small group of friends and family joined local leaders for the private presentation.

