

*** ELECTION 2023 ***

Waechter running for Lewiston Town Board

Sarah Roat Waechter of Lewiston is pleased to announce her candidacy for a seat on the Town of Lewiston Board. The election is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Waechter has been a resident of the Town of Lewiston for 21 years. She is an active supporter of the town programs and the Lewiston-Porter School District, where her two daughters went to school.

Waechter has served her community as a member of the Lewiston-Porter Central School District Board of Education and is currently serving on the Town of Lewiston's Planning Board.

"I find this work so fulfilling," she said. "I believe everyone has a talent to serve their community, and this is where my talent lies."

Waechter is dedicated to the people of the Town of Lewiston, and wishes to bring her commitment, knowledge and creativity to the Town Board.

Waechter holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental policy and behavior from the University of Michigan and an applied science degree in physical therapist assistant from Niagara County Community College. Having been a nontraditional student while pursuing her PTA degree, she understands



that pushing oneself and exploring new territory leads to growth and opportunity – all skills she is excited to bring to the Town of Lewiston Board.

Waechter said she hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the town's work, and she believes strength comes from a diversified board. She is a straight-shooter who will positively impact the community by utilizing her foresight, ability to plan, and fiscal responsibility to help the Town of Lewiston flourish while maintaining its unique character.

She is endorsed by the Communication Workers of America (CWA) and the Lewiston and Niagara County Democratic committees, and is on the Democratic and Working Family Party lines.

Waechter invites queries and dialog. She can be reached at voteroatwaechter@gmail.com.

Niagara Cancer Survivors prep 'RockOut Cancer' with help from Historic Lewiston Chapter of American Wine Society

The sixth "Rock Out Cancer" event is less than a month away, and plans are coming together for the annual event, hosted by Niagara Cancer Survivors. The day is filled with food, basket raffles and 50/50 split draws. This year, the Buffalo Bills vs. Las Vegas Raiders game will be televised on all TVs and, at the end of the game, an 85-inch TCL Roku Smart TV will be amongst the raffle prizes awarded.

All proceeds from the event benefit individuals who have or have had cancer. Niagara Cancer Survivors helps to pay for everyday needs of the individuals.

The Historic Lewiston Chapter of The American Wine Society is helping in a big way this year not only with donations for baskets, but in assembling more than 25 baskets for the event. Chapter co-chairperson Tina Tusa said, "The Wine Society is happy to donate to this event. We know how important the work is that Niagara Cancer Survivors do for the community, and knowing that they partnered with HART Inc. (Home Assistance Referral Team) this year is wonderful. We will also be here the day of the event to help in whatever ways needed."



Members of the Wine Society who pitched in included Joan O'Laughlin, Bob Redd, Diane Redd, Linda Carlson, Gina Egan and Tusa.

The annual "RockOut Cancer" event is set for noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, at the Lewiston Stone House, 755 Center St. Tickets can be purchased for the event or any of the raffles at The Stone House; Sgt. Pepper's Hot Sauces, Etc.; and Hibbard's Liquor Store.

'Niagara County Legislature feels a strong obligation to honor those who have defended our freedoms'

Over the last few years, I have often used this column to highlight the work Niagara County does to serve our veteran community. I have talked about our Veterans Service Agency (VSA) and how it can help veterans access the benefits they earned; I have promoted our Thank-A-Vet program that provides discounts for veterans with many local businesses; and I have discussed the county's efforts to become a Purple Heart County and recognize all of those who were wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. military.

The fact is the Niagara County Legislature feels a strong obligation to honor those who have defended our freedoms. That's why this past Aug. 6, on the front lawn of the Niagara County Courthouse in Lockport, was such a memorable day as we held our third Purple Heart ceremony.

Several years ago, Niagara County Clerk Joe Jastrzemski – who oversees the VSA and has really been at the forefront of all our veterans' recognition efforts – created a Purple Heart Book with the goal to record the name of every resident who ever earned this great honor defending our freedoms in our nation's conflicts. We had more than 300 names in that book, but continued to encourage more people to come forward. At the Aug. 6 event, we were able to recognize another 109 individuals who earned the Purple Heart. Many of these were deceased, and it was a child or grandchild who brought their name forward so that their family member's honor will never be forgotten. There were about a dozen living Purple Heart winners in attendance, and the crowd of close to 500 people gave them a tremendous ovation.

The event featured a keynote address by Rocky Bleier, a

NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE



Becky Wydysh
Chairwoman

Purple Heart veteran and four-time Super Bowl winner with the Pittsburgh Steelers. If you are not familiar with Rocky's story, I encourage you look him up on the internet and read about the tremendous courage that

earned him the Purple Heart, and the struggle he went through to overcome his injuries and return to professional football.

A big thank you for Vietnam Veterans of American Niagara County Chapter No. 268 for bringing Mr. Bleier to the event. The renowned Tonawanda American Legion Band also entertained the large crowd with a host of patriotic songs.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Purple Heart memorial on the front lawn of the courthouse. In November 2021, the Niagara County Legislature unanimously adopted a resolution to form a Purple Heart Memorial Committee to study and report back to the legislature with recommendations on building a permanent monument to honor all Niagara County Purple Heart recipients. After two years of great work by the com-

mittee, the community got to see the results of their efforts.

I want to acknowledge and thank those who served on our committee: Richard Clark, U.S. Marine, 1985-92; Jeff Glatz: U.S. Air Force, 1973-77; Ken Hamilton, U.S. Navy, 1971-84 USN/USN Reserves; Kathryn Kindle: U.S. Army, 21 years; Ron Krul: U.S. Army, 1966-68; Keith Newton, U.S. Army, 1984-2005; Mike Targon, U.S. Marine Corps, 1968-70. The committee was chaired by Legislator David Godfrey, a Vietnam combat veteran. I also want to thank our design firm, Nussbaur & Clarke, in particular Barb Frankiewicz, senior engineer, for her tremendous effort during this process.

The memorial is comprised of a small courtyard and several monuments that list the names of all our Purple Heart awardees. It is readily accessible to visitors, and just a very short walk from the courthouse parking lot for those who may have mobility issues.

As Legislator Godfrey said during his remarks, our hope is that the memorial becomes a place of reflection and reverence for the community, and a "Place of Honor" for each of the individuals whose sacrifices for our nation are forever enshrined there.

If you have not yet had a chance to visit, I hope you will.


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