



Office of General Services

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NEW YORK STATE COLLECTS MORE THAN 700 FLAGS FOR PROPER DISPOSAL AT STATE FAIRGROUNDS

Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced that New York State has collected more than 700 flags at locations statewide so that they can be properly retired as part of the Memorial Watchfire hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 103, on Sunday, May 28th, 2017 at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. Information on the Watchfire can be found [here](#). The flags were delivered to the Watchfire by Commissioner Destito and Eric J. Hesse, Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs.

"We are very happy that the Governor is supportive of the Watchfire and thankful for his personal help and getting the flags retired like they are supposed to be retired. It boosts everyone's morale," **said Gordie Lane, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 103.**

"OGS is honored to be engaged with the veteran's community every day through the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Program established by Governor Cuomo that certifies these companies and helps them learn about opportunities to do business with New York State," **OGS Commissioner RoAnn Destito said.** "We were happy to be able to help make it easier for people to retire their flags properly and would like to thank the Memorial Watchfire organization and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 103 for organizing and hosting this important annual event."

Eric J. Hesse, Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, said, " It is a privilege to take part in this year's Watchfire. We appreciate the support we've gotten from OGS and the Governor's office to collect flags for proper retirement across the state. I don't think there is a more fitting opportunity to do this than Watchfire and I want to thank Gordie Lane and all the members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 103 and the many volunteers who put this on each year."

Visit the Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development webpage [here](#) and the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs here <https://www.veterans.ny.gov>.

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