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## 11 Westchester Rabbi's Sign Letter Opposing Congressman Bowman's "Anti-Israel Rhetoric"



Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman, left, and Westchester native, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, both voted against a resolution in support of Israel

By Dan Murphy

A letter signed by more than a dozen New York Rabbi's, including 11 from Westchester, have asked Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman to, "change course" on his "anti-Israel rhetoric in Congress.

"Regrettably, Rep. Bowman's anti-Israel views continue this extremist trend and only stoke further tension and conflict," states part of the letter, signed by Rabbi Jonathan Blake, Senior Rabbi, Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale and 10 other Westchester Rabbi's.

Last year, Rep. Bowman removed his support for a bill to expand the Abraham Accords peace accords. More recently, Bowman signed a letter with Senator Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez which called on the Biden administration to "to undertake a shift in U.S. policy" toward Israel.

And last week, Bowman, AOC and 16 other House democrats voted against a resolution honoring the U.S.-Israeli relationship and the 75th anniversary of the founding of Israel. The resolution passed 400-19.

"While many community leaders in the Congressman's district (N.Y.-16) — including each author of this piece — have sought to engage him in constructive conversations about the damaging positions he has taken with regard to the U.S.-Israel relationship, Rep. Bowman has chosen to dig in deeper and align himself with the most caustic anti-Israel voices in Washington," write The Forward, <https://forward.com/opinion/542245/rabbi-jamaal-bowman-anti-israel-congress-policy-us-blinken-biden/>. "Congressman Bowman is no longer merely an accessory to anti-Israel rhetoric in Washington. He is now leading the effort to erode support for Israel on Capitol Hill and within the Democratic Party."

The letter from the NY-Westchester Rabbi's continues, "We do not condone efforts to undermine the pillars of a robust and longstanding democracy in Israel. Americans and Israelis have each seen firsthand how political extremism can divide a nation. We need to bridge divides to help achieve peace, not inflame tensions with baseless attacks and one-sided policy prescriptions. If Congressman Bowman truly cares about advancing peace, he will abandon his damaging and counterproductive agenda. Those of us who care deeply about the U.S.-Israel relationship call on Rep. Bowman to change course."

**Signed,**  
Rabbi Jonathan Blake, Rabbi Adam Baldachin, Rabbi Jeffrey Brown, Rabbi Menachem Creditor, Rabbi Leora Frankel, Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, Rabbi Daniel Gropper, Rabbi Shmuel Hain, Rabbi Binyamin Krauss, Rabbi Chaim Marder, Rabbi David Schuck, Rabbi Jay M. Stein, Rabbi Annie Tucker

## DA Rocah to Vacate 26 Drug Convictions in Mt. Vernon from 2017 Based on Secret Recordings



Murashea Bovell

By Dan Murphy

In 2020, The Gothamist ran a series of stories alleging police corruption allegations in the Mt. Vernon Police Department. The allegations were based on former MVPD Officer Murashea Bovell, who became a whistleblower who secretly recorded conversations with other officers concerning favorable treatment given to some drug dealers, while arrests were made against others. The recordings were made from 2017-2020.

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced on May 10 that 27 persons arrested by the MVPD in 2017 for drug offenses will have their convictions vacated, based on the loss of confidence in evidence collected and the officers who made the arrests.

Specifically, Rocah will seek to vacate the convictions and charges of 27 individuals for their alleged drug sales to a Westchester County Police - Department of Public Safety undercover officer during a 2017 narcotics operation conducted by the Mount Vernon Police Department. The District Attorney cited a pattern of inconsistencies, errors and disclosure issues uncovered by the Conviction Review Unit she established early in her term (report available here). DA Rocah also announced the conclusion of her criminal investigation into the MVPD Narcotics Division that was prompted by allegations of wrongdoing made by a former MVPD officer and heard on secret recordings.

DA Rocah said: "In light of the allegations made on the secretly-recorded conversations among various Mount Vernon police officers, as well as complaints from the public received by the District Attorney's Office, my Conviction Review Unit conducted an exhaustive examination into certain Mount Vernon police narcotics prosecutions. The Conviction Review Unit's review uncovered inconsistencies,

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## As Rockland & Orange Refuse NYC Migrants, Latimer Talks Faith & Compassion as Westchester Prepares to be Next



The State of Texas has bused 50,000 migrants who have cross the US Border to NYC

By Dan Murphy

On May 8, Westchester County Executive George Latimer gave an impassioned speech, filled with verses from the Bible, as he prepared residents for NYC Mayor Eric Adams to send some of the 50,000 migrants now in New York City to Westchester.

Latimer stated his briefing by explaining that while Rockland and Orange Counties did receive migrants from NYC, Westchester has yet to receive any, or a request to do so. But Latimer also contrasted his views with the views of Rockland County Executive Ed Day, who has declared a state of emergency in response to migrants being sent to an empty hotel in his county, and has refused to accept them.

"The Irish immigrants who came here in the 1940's were not welcome. We need to know how long they will be here and who will pay for it. We cannot provide federal programs to undocumented residents, and I have a fiduciary responsibility to the people of this county, and to protect their safety.

"I asked our county attorney whether I have the authority under executive order for an emergency declaration (if migrants are sent from NYC). I do not have that power.

"I am influenced by my religion, and I know that some of my fellow catholics are unhappy with some of my positions.

Latimer then read from the Bible, Book of Matthew, 25, Verses 31-40, where Jesus tells his followers.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty

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## Senate Leader Stewart-Cousins: Historic Funding in NYS Budget: Slater Lone No Vote in Westchester delegation



Assemblyman Matt Slater left,



Maj. Leader Stewart-Cousins

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, commented on the passage of the NYS Budget. "In negotiating the New York State 2023-2024 Budget, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins stood firm in her priorities to fund education, childcare, and mental health at historic levels. She also fought for an expansion of the Child Care Tax Credit to help all families.

"The Senate sees itself as the Education Conference for a reason," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins. "Two years ago, we set out to create a cradle to college pipeline that supports our children's excellence at every stage of development. Now, for the first time ever, and after a long and persistent fight, we will fully fund Foundation Aid and ensure that each public school is equally provided for throughout New York."

Foundation Aid is vital for school districts who need additional resources to be sure that all students, especially those that require extra help for various reasons, are not left behind. Districts with high populations of students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners will see a significant increase in aid. The final budget also secured the largest annual School Aid allocation of \$34.5 billion.

In another groundbreaking victory, the budget provides \$135 million for free breakfast and lunch to 300,000 new students across the State. This Universal Free School Meals Program helps to ensure students' ability to learn will not be affected by hunger.

At the same time, the final budget ensures that there will be no tuition increase for in-state students who attend SUNY and CUNY. SUNY will receive an additional \$103 million in operating aid and CUNY will receive \$53 million.

"The education of our children begins at the earliest stages of their lives and it needs to be affordable," said the Majority Leader, "So it was vital to

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## May 20th FREE Family Friendly Follow the French: Rochambeau Festival

At Rochambeau Park (Yorktown Grange Fair Grounds)



French General Count de Rochambeau

On Saturday, May 20th, from 10am to 4pm, the Yorktown Heritage Preservation Commission / Yorktown 250 in partnership with the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association (W3R) and the Yorktown Grange will commemorate the role that French General Count de Rochambeau and the French army played in aiding General Washington and the Continental Army in the fight for freedom from British rule.

The American Revolutionary War was not going well for Washington and his exhausted troops. In February 1780, French King, Louis XVI, agreed to send land forces to help the American cause, appointing Rochambeau to command the French army. The French Army arrived in Newport Rhode Island in July 1780 and spent the winter regrouping and getting ready to join the American fight for independence.

In July 1781, the French forces joined the Americans at their camp at Philipsburg, now Greenburgh, New York, to assess the military strength of the British who were in Manhattan and decide on a plan of attack. In August 1781, they learned French Admiral Comte de Grasse planned to sail to Chesapeake Bay and they decided the best chance for victory was to attack the British army in Yorktown, Virginia. The two generals mapped out their plan and decided on a route to move their armies from Greenburgh to Yorktown Virginia which took them through Yorktown, New York.

Rochambeau Park, dedicated in honor of the French General in 1954, was among five locations the French forces occupied in Yorktown, then known as Crompond. On August 21, 1781, the French troops encamped overnight at Hunt's Tavern, named for the local watering hole (now Freyer's Nursery), with over 5,000 French men, a few women, servants, waggoneers, 1,500 horses, and hundreds of wagons pulled by as many as 2,000 oxen.

On May 20th, visitors to Rochambeau Park will join local, county and state officials in welcoming our French allies, be able to discuss the French army's role in winning our independence with a Rochambeau national scholar, French dignitaries, and living history teachers. Guests will interact with members of the French, Continental, and British forces in uniform and observe drills and firing of muskets. Adults and kids will participate in an encampment setup and drill with model muskets under the leadership of a sergeant. Exhibitors attired in period dress will share stories about Rochambeau and the French troops while here in Yorktown; visitors are invited to wander the spacious grounds, enjoy the food and beverage and greet animals from the day.

This event is one of many planned leading up to 2026 commemoration of our nation's 250th anniversary of our independence from England. Yorktown's Heritage Preservation Commission Chair, Lynn Briggs, exuberantly says: "Bring the whole family and learn *how our Yorktown played a crucial role* with Rochambeau aiding Washington and the Continental Army in the fight for our independence from British rule."

Rochambeau Park is one of three historic Revolutionary War sites in Westchester County where French troops camped during the war. The other encampment sites are Smith's Tavern in Armonk and the Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters in Hartsdale. On the day of the event, visitors can be guided to visit Rochambeau Park and the other sites with a soon to be released free TravelStorys Follow the French audio tour about the crucial French alliance with General Washington and the Continental army. The tour was organized by the Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters, [www.odellrochambeau.org](http://www.odellrochambeau.org), and funding provided by the Scarsdale Historical Society.

The Town of Yorktown wishes to thank Rochambeau Park /Yorktown Grange, located at 99 Moseman Road, for their partnership in bringing this historic event to Yorktown and nearby community residents. Grange Master, Mark Franks, says: "We are proud to help Yorktown create public awareness of Rochambeau Park, this historic Revolutionary War site."

## NYAG James Warns New Yorkers About Thieves Targeting Hyundai and Kia Vehicles



New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued a consumer alert to warn New Yorkers about recent thefts targeting vehicles made by Hyundai and Kia and provided critical tips to protect consumers. Attorney General James also urged Hyundai and Kia to immediately fix safety flaws, such as faulty ignition switches and a lack of engine immobilizers, that have made their vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 vulnerable to thefts. Attorney General James also called on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to recall these unsafe vehicles. Today's alert comes in light of a surge in Hyundai and Kia car thefts caused by a dangerous viral video trend on the social media platform TikTok, where people have uploaded videos showing how to hotwire these cars and challenging others to steal them.

"When we learn about scams and design flaws that harm New York consumers and car owners, it is important that we slam the brakes on these problems," said Attorney General James. "Manufacturers have a responsibility to address safety flaws in their vehicles, which is why I am calling on Hyundai and Kia to immediately install anti-theft devices and other safety measures to better protect New York car owners and lessees. I urge all New Yorkers, especially those with impacted Hyundai and Kia vehicles, to remain vigilant and follow our important tips to help keep themselves safe."

Kia and Hyundai vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 are vulnerable to theft because their ignition switches can be easily bypassed and they lack engine immobilizers, which has allowed thieves to hotwire the vehicles within minutes. Exploitation of these vulnerabilities were made public through TikTok videos of people showing how to steal Hyundai and Kia cars using simple tools like a USB cable and screwdriver. As these vulnerabilities spread virally through challenge videos on the internet, thefts of Hyundai and Kia vehicles has surged, creating significant public safety hazards and property loss. For instance, in Rochester, nearly 75 percent of cars stolen this year were manufactured by Hyundai and Kia. Similarly, in New York City, the New York City Police Department has indicated alarming concerns, in which there were more than 100 Hyundai and Kia car thefts in the month of December alone. Theft of Hyundai and Kia vehicles have led to millions of dollars in lost and damaged property and have diverted emergency and police resources from other pressing issues.

"So far this year, Rochester has seen 403 Kias and 386 Hyundais stolen from our residents," said U.S. Representative Joe Morelle. "Not only do these thefts pose a danger to our children, families, and businesses, they place an undue strain on our law enforcement — tying up their resources and making it more difficult in a time when they're already overburdened. I'm grateful to Attorney General James for taking steps to end this crisis, and remain committed to a collaborative, all-hands-on-deck approach by government to strengthen public safety."

"Over the past five months, more than 1,400 Kias and Hyundais have been stolen in Monroe County, partly due to TikTok's promotion of how-to guides for car theft," said Monroe County Executive Adam Bello. "This puts people and businesses at risk and drains law enforcement resources. Kia and Hyundai must also take responsibility for vulnerabilities in their vehicles that allow easy theft. I support Attorney General James' call for a national recall of these unsafe vehicles, provision of anti-theft devices, and faster software updates to prevent future thefts."

As part of her ongoing efforts to combat theft and protect New Yorkers, Attorney General James and a coalition of 17 other attorneys general called for a national recall of these unsafe vehicles. Additionally, Attorney General James and the coalition urged Hyundai and Kia to speed up their efforts to install software patches that would prevent vehicles from being easily stolen and provide free anti-theft steering wheel devices to all impacted owners whose vehicles are not eligible for the software patch.

Attorney General James also recommends New Yorkers who own Hyundai and Kia vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 to immediately take the following steps to protect themselves against theft:

If you're a Kia owner or lessee, you should check Kia's website or call Kia directly to check the status of your vehicle's eligibility for a software upgrade or free steering wheel lock. You can contact Kia's Customer Care team toll-free at 1-800-333-4542 or online via its Owners Portal.

If you're a Hyundai owner or lessee, you should check Hyundai's website or call Hyundai directly to check the status of your vehicle's eligibility for a software upgrade or free steering wheel lock. You can call Hyundai's customer care agents toll-free at 1-888-498-0390 or visit its website for more information.

Immediately contact your Hyundai/Kia dealer to ask about having the software on your vehicle upgraded to repair the vulnerabilities that make the vehicles uniquely prone to car theft.

Request an anti-theft steering wheel device from Hyundai or Kia if your vehicle is not immediately eligible for a software patch that would repair its vulnerabilities.

Check your mail regularly and be aware of any notices from Hyundai, Kia, or government agencies regarding any mandatory or voluntary recalls of vehicles or additional safety measures that may become available for your vehicle.

If your vehicle has been stolen or you believe someone has attempted to steal your vehicle, contact your local police precinct to report the incident.

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Letters to the Editor:

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG WITH THE SOUTHERN BORDER?

Our beacon of “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses ...” is going dim.

Mayor Eric Adams did the equivalent of yelling at the Biden administration in April for lack of financial support stating, “the national government has turned its back on New York.” He called it an “asylum-seeking crisis.” Other big city mayors are also feeling the pain. DC’s Mayor Muriel Bowser claimed her city, the nation’s capital, was at a “tipping point.” And outgoing Chicago Mayor, Lori Lightfoot, expressing similar frustration, focused her ire at Texas Governor Abbot, asking him to “stop busing migrants to Chicago.” These are compassionate “sanctuary” cities that are typically accommodative but are now pushing back.

Mayor Adams has now taken it further. To alleviate the burden, he has announced that he will begin busing those “asylum seekers” to neighboring counties. In response, Rockland County has enacted a state of emergency to ensure no asylum seekers find refuge in his county.

Making bad matters worse, is Title 42, a rule which allows border patrol agents to expel immigrants to their home country is set to expire in a few days - May 11. The federal government is estimating a surge of as many as 13,000 migrants per day into the U.S.

This is a crisis. What is lost in this debacle is the recognition that the strength of our country is in its diversity, that the revitalization of America comes from our immigrant population.

Coincidentally, or because of big cities’ harsh admonishments, President Biden recently responded by sending 1,500 troops to provide aid (essentially to facilitate entry) at the southern border.

I’m just asking, “Where did we go wrong?”

Written by Derickson K. Lawrence, A resident of Mount Vernon.

**To the Editor:**

The recent news about Clarence Thomas’s financial entanglements with GOP megadonor Harlan Crow should be alarming to every American. This is what happens when the highest court in the land is given free rein to police itself. Clarence Thomas isn’t the first justice to engage in unethical behavior. And if Congress continues to ignore the need for a Supreme Court code of ethics, he won’t be the last.

Of the nine justices currently on the bench, four have been called out for unethical behavior and connections in the last year. Neil Gorsuch sold property to the head of a law firm with cases in front of the Supreme Court. Samuel Alito dined with anti-abortion activists and allegedly leaked decisions on reproductive health. John Roberts’ wife has earned millions of dollars from law firms with business before the Supreme Court.

Congress has a constitutional duty to act as a check on the Supreme Court and restore faith in our judicial system. It’s time they act and pass a Supreme Court code of ethics.

Sincerely, Janice Martin-Clarke, Mt. Vernon

**Westchester County Offers Early Bird Discount for Baseball Camp**

Westchester County Parks is offering a knocked-out-of-the park deal for HEAT Baseball Camp, which will be held at V.E. Macy Park in Ardsley this summer. Those who register now through May 31 will receive the early bird registration discount, and an additional 10 percent discount if booking multiple weeks.

County Executive George Latimer said: “Our baseball camps help children develop athletic skills, get exercise, make friends, have fun, understand teamwork, learn to play fair and improve self-esteem. The aptitudes and lessons that young people acquire at Westchester County Camps shape positive values and behaviors.”

HEAT Baseball Camp will cover all areas of the game including fielding, pitching, hitting, base running, strength and conditioning, game situations and baseball IQ.

Four week-long sessions will be held in July and four days in August.

- Session 1: July 10 – 14
  - Session 2: July 17 – 21
  - Session 3: July 24 – 28
  - Session 4: July 31 – Aug. 4
- The early bird registration fee is \$300 per camper, per week through May 31. On June 1, the registration fee increases to \$325 per camper, per week. Each day runs from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The players must be ages 8 through 15 as of May 1, 2023. The players will be divided into two groups by age: 8 through 11 and 12 through 15. For more information, visit <https://parks.westchestergov.com/children-camps/baseball-camp> or call (914) 231-4673.

**Former Lakeland Schools Administrator Claims “Nepotism” by Superintendent Gagliardi as Cause for Termination**



Joy Myke

By Dan Murphy

A former Assistant Superintendent for Business for the Lakeland School District is suing the district, and Superintendent Karen Gagliardi for wrongful termination.

Joy Myke, who was hired in 2021, after an impressive professional career that included working for IBM and in the Tarrytown School District, BOCES, Chapqua school district, claims in her suit in Westchester State Supreme Court that Gagliardi fired many top administrators and replaced them with “personal friends of Gagliardi and the Board of Education trustees.”

Myke was fired in December of 2022. Superintendent Gagliardi cited three reasons for Myke’s termination. They included difficulty filing a district report and a natural gas contract, and a lack of organization in her office.

Myke denied all of Gagliardi’s claims in her suit, and identifies five former Lakeland employees who she claims were let go and replaced by friends of Gagliardi and of Lakeland Board of Education vice-president Denise Kness.

According to court documents, “After Respondent Gagliardi took over as District Superintendent, she quickly began a process of forcing out all previous executive level cabinet members and replacing them with friends and former colleagues

“On or about October 25, 2021, Dr. Steven Rappelyea, the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services resigned after pressure from the BOE... Upon information and belief of Petitioner, Dr. Rappelyea’s replacement is Dr. Joe Spatola, a friend and former colleague of Respondent Gagliardi for more than nine years.”

“On or about December 31, 2021, Tammy Cosgrove, the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, retired. Ms. Cosgrove’s placement is Dr. Joe Mosey, a friend and former colleague of Respondent Gagliardi.

“Respondent Gagliardi created a new executive cabinet level position with the title Safety, Security and Discipline Administrator, effective July 1, 2022. Upon information and belief of Petitioner, Respondent Gagliardi appointed Christian Mercurio, a close personal friend of the Respondent Gagliardi and a former colleague of hers to the position. Notably, Mr. Mercurio does not have the correct certification for his position of Director of Security.”

“Respondent Gagliardi also hired Dr. Tracy Norman as her replacement for Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Upon information and belief of Petitioner, Dr. Norman is a very close friend of Respondent Gagliardi and a former co-principal of hers at George Washington Elementary School.”

“On or about October 25, 2022, District Treasurer Jose Guevarra resigned. Pamela DellaDonna was hired as the new District Treasurer, who, upon information and belief of Petitioner, is a close personal friend of Diane Kness, the BOE Vice-President. Notably, Ms. DellaDonna has no prior school district treasurer experience and was hired in lieu of a candidate with over ten years of school district financial experience.

“Respondent Gagliardi advocated to the BOE that they give Assistant Superintendent titles to Mr. Spatola and Dr. Mosey. After the BOE supported Respondent Gagliardi’s request and issued Mr. Spatola and Dr. Mosey the titles of Assistant Superintendent, Petitioner (Myke) requested the Assistant Superintendent designation as well, as she was the only executive level cabinet member without such title. Notably, Respondent Gagliardi did not advocate for an Assistant Superintendent title for Petitioner and Petitioner’s request was denied.”

Editor’s Note: I am a current homeowner, and taxpayer in the Lakeland School District. I find Joy Myke’s qualifications for her Lakeland position to more than enough. But she was on a probationary appointment, and the new Superintendent, Gagliardi, obviously wanted to bring in her own team. This happens with almost every political office, and school district leadership posts. We will grant that the quick number of high level personnel turnaround under Gagliardi seems questionable.

But is that act illegal? Perhaps the more important legal question comes down to whether Gagliardi had enough professional cause to terminate Myke.



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## Two Stepinac Students Recipients of Annual Xavier E. Flores Memorial Scholarship



**Photo Credit: (Back Row, L to R) – Michael Letto, Rev. Thomas Collins, Xavier Flores Jr., Jessica Letto (Front Row, L to R) – Evelyn Flores, Elise Flores, Donal Connaughton, Eric Welwin**

Two Stepinac High School seniors—Donal Connaughton and Eric Welwin, both of Yonkers, were honored recently as recipients of the annual Xavier E. Flores Memorial Scholarship Award, established in memory of the esteemed Stepinac alumnus who tragically passed away from COVID-19 in April 2020 at the age of 49.

In a ceremony, which was attended by Evelyn Flores—the widow of Xavier E. Flores—and other members of Xavier’s family, the students each received \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary community service contributions.

Stepinac President Fr. Thomas Collins (Class of ’79), congratulated the outstanding students for achieving this honor and wished them “continued success at college and in their future careers,” adding: “They have been inspired by Xavier Flores’ legacy of giving back to the community in ways that make a tangible difference in the lives of people who most need it.”

Xavier Flores, who graduated from Stepinac in 1988, was actively involved in his alma mater, helping to raise funds for school programs and serving as co-president of the Crusader Men’s Club. He was also honored with the Block S Award bestowed on individuals whose contributions had a meaningful impact on Stepinac. His son, Xavier M. Flores, graduated from Stepinac as a member of the Class of 2020.

In essays that were submitted with their applications for the scholarship, Connaughton and Welwin shared their community service experiences and reflected on the deeper meaning of community service in their lives.

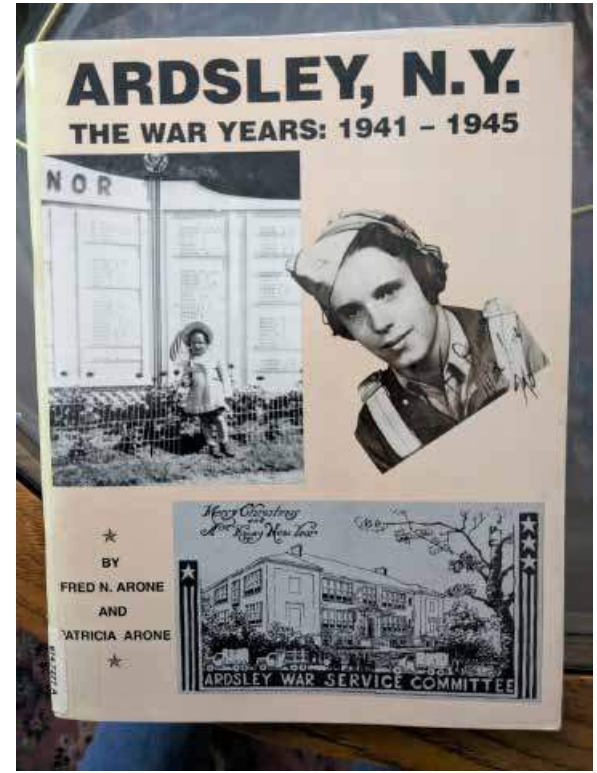
For Connaughton, his experience at Stepinac allowed him to grow “exponentially” in self-confidence, taking advantage of opportunities that strengthened his leadership skills which will help in his post-secondary pursuits. As a result of what Stepinac has given him, he has felt “obliged to give back in any way that I can.” Among the activities that have fulfilled his need are volunteering for Campus Ministry and Rotary Club projects to support underprivileged communities such as food pantry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and BOX City to raise money for the homeless in Westchester.

He is also looking forward to his most significant service project to date: a seminar on May 16 for Stepinac students on the dangers of vaping and opioid abuse that will be hosted by the school’s inaugural Foroige Club, of which he is a member. Last summer, when he participated in the renowned international Foroige Leadership for Life Conference, he learned an invaluable lesson: “That as important as each individual is to the community, the community is also responsible for uplifting and bettering the individual.” He noted: “This gave me a new, fresh perspective on community service, which is why we decided to launch this initiative to combat the prevalence of vaping and opioid-related illnesses.”

Welwin, who sees service “as an action that allows you to humble yourself and let you embark on the purest form of support you can ever offer to another life,” has been engaged in a wide range of service projects as a youth leader at his church where he helped create fundraisers for the devastated flood victims in Kerala, India and the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.

At Stepinac, he takes pride in having collaborated with another student in developing new ways for Stepinac’s A Helping Hand Club to contribute to the well-being of our community. “We created a snack bag drive for the homeless that has become an annual event for our club, allowing us to connect our entire school community to come together and focus on the greater good for our society.” For more information, visit [www.Stepinac.org](http://www.Stepinac.org).

## Ardsley to Raise Funds for Tribute Banners for 12 Sons Lost in WWII



**Ardsley Engine Company # 1 and Ardsley American Legion Post 458 to Share Costs; Post 458 Will Fund Costs of Banners with Proceeds from Annual Poppy Sales on May 20**

In August 2022, the Village of Ardsley made headlines when 59 Military Tribute Banners honoring Ardsley’s men and women who served in the U.S. military were displayed by family members and other sponsors at a ceremony held at Louis Pascone Memorial Park. It represented one of the region’s largest levels of participation in the Military Tributes Banners program and the first-of-its-kind in the Rivertowns.

Of the 59 banners that were prominently displayed on street poles throughout the fall, 35 were Ardsley veterans who served during World War II. Two of them, who were killed during the bloodiest war in history, were represented, thanks to the generosity of an Ardsley business owner, Maurice Hyacinth of HMH Management who decided to become a sponsor when he learned of the program. As it turns out, the program’s organizers led by Sharon Colabello, daughter of the late Marty Engleman, a decorated World War II veteran who owned and operated Ardsley’s legendary Marty’s Mug & Munch from 1969 to 1989, were seeking sponsors for a total of all the 14 young men from Ardsley who lost their lives in defense of America from 1941 to 1945. The difficult task for the organizers was locating descendants and friends living in Ardsley who would sponsor banners for all 14.

The 14, whose names are engraved on Ardsley’s Roll of Honor, 1941-1945 at Louis Pascone Memorial Park where their sacrifices are recalled and honored by the community during Memorial Day ceremonies, served in all branches of the U.S. military and fought in every major campaign —on the beaches of Normandy, in Europe, in the Italy, Tunisian and North Africa campaigns, in Iwo Jima. They fought on the ground in the infantry, on the seas and in the air. They were privates, officers and non-commissioned officers. Two of them were honored with Purple Hearts; one received an Air Medal for Bravery, another a Navy Meritorious Medal. All served with honor. All left Ardsley as young men—several were teenagers—soon after Pearl Harbor was attacked. And none returned to Ardsley. They were among the approximate 407,000 American military deaths in World War II.

Hyacinth had no connection to any of the 14 but sponsored banners to honor two of them:

- Robert E. Bunch, Jr. (Ardsley High School (AHS) Class of ’42), who served with the U.S. Army’s 90th Infantry Division, saw action on Utah Beach, Normandy in June 1944, earning a Purple Heart and was killed by hostile fire in Germany on April 8, 1945 (Note: his father served as Mayor of Ardsley from 1951-53)

- Charles E. Duryea (AHS Class of 1940) who served with the U.S. Marine Corps—4th Marine Division and was killed in action in Iwo Jima on February 27, 1945.

Now, thanks to a joint initiative, Ardsley Engine Company #1 and the Ardsley American Legion Post 458 will share the cost of producing Military Tribute Banners for the remaining 12 Ardsley young men who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II. It all began earlier this year when Jamie Macri, former Fire Chief, Ardsley Engine Company # 1, watched a Village Council meeting on Cable Access which featured an annual report presentation by the Ardsley Historical Society delivered by Peter Marcus. Macri noted from Marcus’ comments that there was still an outstanding need to produce banners for the 12. Clearly, this was a gap that needed to be closed, Macri thought, and he quickly recommended to the Ardsley Engine Company # 1 that their group step up and pay the cost for sponsoring six banners.

Ardsley American Legion Post 458 announced that the funds from the annual Poppy sales, to be held all day outside the entrance to DeCicco’s Supermarket, Saturday, May 20, will be used to pay for its share of the banners.

The following are two lists of the Military Tribute Banners to honor Ardsley’s 12 who perished during World War II:

- Sponsored by Ardsley Fire Engine Company # 1
  - Fred C. Baker (AHS, Class of year), 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army, killed in Normandy, D-Day
  - James B. Mackenzie (AHS Class of ’39), Merchant Marines-U.S. Navy, Lt. JG
  - Thomas F. Mack, Jr. (AHS Class of ’38), Master Sergeant, U.S. Army, 10th Mountain Division, Italy Campaign
  - George H. Hauptman, Jr. (AHS Class of ’41), Anti-aircraft gunner, U.S. Army
  - David W. Longmuir (AHS Class of ’37), U.S. Army Air Corps Merchant Marines (Note: enlisted on December 8, 1941, day after the attack on Pearl Harbor)
  - Angelo L. Delmerico (AHS Class of ’37), staff sergeant, U.S. Army, 85th Infantry Division, Purple Heart

*continued on pg 7-*

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## 300,000 Fentanyl Pills Found in Auto Gas Tank

An investigation into fentanyl trafficking in New York City resulted in the seizure of approximately 300,000 fake oxycodone pills containing fentanyl, plus five kilograms of powdered fentanyl (over 11 pounds), from a red Ford Expedition stopped in the Bronx. The fentanyl was discovered inside the gas tank of the vehicle, and carries an estimated street value of approximately \$5 million.

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, and Frank A. Tarentino III, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) New York Division (NY), announced the arrest of ENRIQUE PEREZ, a resident of Columbus, Ohio, following an investigation by DEA New York Division, Group D-41. The New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force (NYOCDEF) and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) assisted with the investigation.

A criminal complaint filed by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) charges PEREZ with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First and Third Degrees. PEREZ was arrested on Sunday, April 30, 2023, and arraigned the evening of Monday, May 1, 2023 in Manhattan Criminal Court, where bail was set at \$200,000 cash/bond with a 72-hour surety and geolocation monitoring.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan said, "At a time when our city's overdose rates are at a record high, the discovery of more than eleven pounds of powdered fentanyl and hundreds of thousands of fentanyl pills manufactured to look like prescription pills, concealed in the gas tank of a truck near the Bronx Court House, is truly alarming. We will continue to work with our partners to seize deadly drugs before they ever hit the streets."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Frank A. Tarentino III said, "This seizure demonstrates one of the many ways evil drug cartels, like the Sinaloa cartel, smuggle fentanyl from Mexico to major cities like New York for street distribution. While we hit the accelerator on our enforcement efforts, the cartels go to extremes to conceal illicit drugs in implausible spots, like the gas tank of a vehicle. I commend our law enforcement partners who are working with us to target drug traffickers and cartels who inflict the most harm to our communities."

On April 30, 2023, at approximately 1:39 p.m., members of DEA NY, Group D-41, were conducting surveillance as part of the short-term investigation when they stopped the Ford Expedition in front of 295 East 161st Street. PEREZ was allegedly driving the vehicle, which bore a Texas license plate.

An NYPD K9 alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle, but agents and officers were unable to identify the precise location. An inspection of PEREZ's phone allegedly revealed photographs of bundles of cash and what appeared to be a hidden access to the Ford Expedition's gas tank from inside of the vehicle. Agents discovered the gas tank was accessible from the rear floor area. Approximately 300,000 blue fake oxycodone pills containing fentanyl and five kilograms of powdered fentanyl were contained in vacuum sealed packages, and submerged in the vehicle's gas tank.

The fentanyl seized from the Ford Expedition is believed to have originated in Mexico. The investigation revealed that the vehicle has crossed the U.S.-Mexico border multiple times.

This case fits a trafficking pattern observed in recent months: defendants who reside out-of-state transport large quantities of fentanyl pills and powder together for distribution in New York City; vehicles used bear out-of-state license plates, not necessarily from the state of residence; and loads of narcotics are worth a million dollars or more.

## North Castle Family Indicted for 2022 Gun Bust



Google maps photo of the Brois home in North Castle

**18 semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, two machine guns and a ghost gun in defendants' home**

On May 9, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah and North Castle Police Chief Peter J. Simonsen announced that three North Castle residents, who are family members from the same household, were arraigned on an indictment alleging the illegal possession of nearly 50 guns, including semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, machine guns and a ghost gun, found in their home.

DA Rocah said: "This case is another result of our strong partnership with local police to ensure greater public safety by seizing illegal guns and preventing these deadly weapons from infiltrating our communities."

Chief Simonsen said: "What is most notable is that this investigation was proactive in nature, and thankfully did not come as the result of a tragic incident. It is most probable that this initiative, and its success, has prevented loss of life and victimization."

The defendants were arraigned in Westchester County Court on May 9, 2023, after a Westchester County Grand Jury indicted the defendants on the following charges:

- Theodore Brois, 68, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of five or more firearms), eight counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of loaded assault weapons), and 12 counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, all felonies.

- Brandon Brois, 25, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of a loaded pistol), Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of five or more firearms), two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of loaded assault weapons), four counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, all felonies, and nine counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree, misdemeanors. Brandon Brois has a prior conviction of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, which prohibits him from legally possessing any firearm.

- Helene Brois, 63, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of five or more firearms), two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (related to the alleged possession of loaded assault weapons), and three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, all felonies.

On January 25, 2022, at approximately 11:25 a.m., the North Castle Police Department arrested the three defendants who had no permits to legally purchase or possess firearms, and seized 48 guns, which were found in several rooms throughout the house. At least 15 of the guns were loaded.

The defendants' arrests were a result of an investigation by the North Castle Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Real Time Crime Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

## Westchester County, CSEA Union Reach Agreement on New Five Year Contract

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has announced an agreement between the County of Westchester and the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Westchester County Local 860, Unit 9200 on a new five-year agreement retroactively beginning on January 1, 2023 and ending on December 31, 2027.

The agreement covers compensation, insurance, certain leaves and other items pertaining to the County's dedicated workforce.

Latimer said: "Westchester County residents rely on the services our workforce provides each and every day. This agreement is a manifestation of the efforts of building a strong relationship with the dedicated public servants who call the County an employer each day. We respect the professionalism of those who work in government service."

CSEA President Hattie Adams said: "Our Union is committed to serving CSEA Unit 9200 members, County Employees of Westchester, and this agreement is key to helping us do so. For our thousands of members, this five-year deal provides stability during unstable times and will allow us to continue our work for the people of Westchester. I thank County Executive Latimer, Deputy County Executive Jenkins and their Administration for their commitment to helping us better serve and also thank the CSEA Unit 9200 Negotiation Committee, CSEA Lead Negotiator Larry Sparber and all of our members who voted to approve this agreement."

Latimer added: "This is an agreement that benefits both CSEA members as well as Westchester County by providing stability and predictability in uncertain economic times. The negotiating teams from both the County and the union worked together to come to an agreement on the priorities of CSEA leadership. We commend CSEA President Hattie Adams for her extraordinary leadership and hard work on behalf of her members."

The agreement has been approved by the Board of Legislators and was voted on and approved by the union. County Departments with largest number of CSEA workers include Social Services, Environmental Facilities, Parks, Recreation & Conservation, Health and Public Work & Transportation.

## State budget, continued from pg 1-

add \$25 million for Universal Pre-K. We also championed expanding the Child Care Tax Credit to include kids aged 0-4 instead of starting at age 5 as it is now."

"I am also very proud that this \$229 billion budget now includes an historic investment of \$1 billion in mental health. It's clear that the Covid-19 pandemic had a long lasting impact on the mental health of adults as well as young people.

This vitally needed funding will strengthen mental health resources and crisis care, and will be used to create a task force to evaluate how interventions can be improved," said Leader Stewart-Cousins.

The budget spurs economic development and sets the lowest middle-class personal income tax rate in over 70 years. It increases the minimum wage for New Yorkers and further invests in housing for renters and homeowners. It adds to our nation-leading efforts to combat climate change and enhances public safety.

Republican Assemblyman Matt Slater voted no on the state budget. "Another year, and regrettably, another late state budget. It's become abundantly clear Gov. Hochul and her Democrat colleagues are miles apart on an agreement as we approach tonight's midnight deadline.

"The budget deadline is always April 1. It's an utter disgrace that Gov. Hochul and her Democrat colleagues are playing games with the schools, hospitals, first responders and so many others who desperately rely on state funding to operate. As a former town supervisor, I know the importance of making sure these budgets are on time and I am very disappointed in this abdication of leadership."

"Every community, whether urban, suburban or rural is impacted by hunger in some way. With hundreds of billions of dollars being spent in New York State there is no excuse for Governor Hochul not to support this initiative. Our kids must be our priority and making sure every child has access to a healthy meal ensures they have an opportunity to succeed in school," said Slater.

"It completely failed to fix New York's cashless bail system. It completely failed to address our state's affordability crisis, and in fact, Governor Hochul secretly passed a property tax hike while sending more money to New York City. Despite the anticipated wait this budget will just help New Yorkers choose other states and better opportunities."

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### Mother's Day Warbler Walk by Hudson Audubon

Mother's Day Warbler Walk. Sunday, May 14 8:00-10:00 a.m. Lenoir Nature Preserve, 19 Dudley St., Yonkers

Notice of Formation of CR8TIONZ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1434 Western Ave, Suite 1 #7811 Albany, NY 12203 . Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of R.O.S.Y. LLC. filed with the SSNY EIN on 2/22/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2803 Larkspur Street, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598. Purpose: Real Estate

Notice of Formation of Hatter Luxury Eyewear LLC filed with New York State Department of State on March 11, 2023, Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. is designated as the agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of ATSOLO HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Law Office of Adrian T. Solomon, Esq., 2585 Broadway Suite 235, New York 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of THE BOSS BAR & RESTAURANT, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Law Office of Adrian T. Solomon, Esq., 2585 Broadway Suite 235, New York 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Peek Holdings LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/8/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 43 Nob Ct, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thornwood Books LLC. Arts. of Org filed with the SSNY on 02/25/2023. Office: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc, 7014 13th Ave Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Kalehoff Creative, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/30/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Kate Klose LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/21/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 27 Brook Street, Croton on Hudson, New York, 10520. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice is hereby given that a license, 1361004 for beer, wine, & liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine, & liquor at retail in a Catering Hall under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at the business known as Grand Encanto Event Venue at 18 Guion Street, Yonkers, NY 10701 for on premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of Lee Lux Co, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/14/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as an agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, New York 12207. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Motives Thru Fabric LLC. Filed with Angel Luis Morales III. Office: Westchester County. Angel Luis Morales III designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Angel Luis Morales III Shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 35 Montague Street, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of AADNYS TECHNOLOGIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 6 Lewiston Ct, Briarcliff Manor NY, 10510. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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# Catholic Charities Dedication of Day Labor Center in Yonkers



*Cardinal Timothy Dolan is joined by Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers in cutting the ribbon. Photo from Catholic Charities New York*

On Monday, May 1st Catholic Charities of New York celebrated the official opening and ribbon cutting of the Day Laborers Center in Yonkers. This center offers services to help newcomers to this country who want to work to support their families, and it provides education to individuals on workplace safety, fair pay, English classes and more.

More than 10 years in the making, the Obreros Unidos (Workers United) Day Labor Center in Yonkers was dedicated May 1 in ceremonies that included remarks from Timothy Cardinal Dolan; Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, and performances from karaoke singers and a mariachi band, in a celebration of a Catholic Charities project which provides support and education for day laborers.

“Obreros Unidos is standing up for us,” said Jose Antonio Galdamaz, a member of the organization’s board and a factory worker. “You are saving our lives,” he told the assembled dignitaries and workers, as he praised the agency for providing life-saving OSHA training for construction workers and for standing up for immigrant workers who suffer wage theft.

Located in a strip mall adjacent to the Saw Mill River Parkway frequented by day workers seeking employment and contractors needing help, the new Catholic Charities Day Labor Center serves as an education and resource center.

The group is active in all kinds of issues affecting Latino immigrants in Westchester County, from food assistance during the Covid pandemic to forging improved relations with the local police, said Jose.

“We are working with the local police to keep our community united and strong. We are not afraid of the police in Yonkers anymore. We work together,” he said, noting a renewed spirit of cooperation that now exists which he credited to the work of Obreros Unidos and the center’s team.

Cardinal Dolan praised the forward-thinking vision of Catholic Charities. “Catholic Charities has a unique ability to be proactive in seeing challenges,” noted the cardinal, who said he noticed day laborers on street corners in Yonkers while visiting St. Joseph’s Seminary after being named archbishop of New York in 2009.

The Center features a kitchen for social occasions as well as rooms for day laborers connecting with employers. Classes are offered in varied topics, including workplace safety, English, nanny care, and guitar.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, noted that the Center is the result of a coalition that Catholic Charities’ has been able to forge among union, church, business and community leaders. One of those leaders is Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers, who noted that immigrants in Yonkers, through Catholic Charities, “have someone who will stick up for you.”

Visit [catholiccharitiesny.org](http://catholiccharitiesny.org) for more information.

## *Rocah, MVPD, continued from pg 1-*

the public received by the District Attorney’s Office, my Conviction Review Unit conducted an exhaustive examination into certain Mount Vernon police narcotics prosecutions. The Conviction Review Unit’s review uncovered inconsistencies, reliability concerns, and significant disclosure issues that leave me unable to stand by the prosecutions connected to the Mount Vernon Police Department’s 2017 undercover narcotics operation. As a result, I will seek to vacate these convictions and dismiss the charges. Though rare, wrongful convictions erode community trust and the public’s faith in the criminal justice system.”

Rocah was not Westchester DA at the time of the 2017 arrests and prosecution. Former DA Anthony Scarpino’s office prosecuted the cases. Rocah defeated Scarpino in 2020.

Thirty-two individuals were initially charged in the 2017 narcotics operation. Five people had their cases dismissed prior to the CRU’s review: three due to significant issues with the evidence, and two due to the individuals completing diversion programs. Of the remaining 27, 26 of which were resolved by pleas, 11 involved felony charges and will be brought before Judge George E. Fufidio in Westchester County Court; 16 involved misdemeanor charges and will be handled in Mount Vernon City Court. Among the cases stemming from the operation, 16 individuals served sentences from up to one year in jail or up to one-and-a-half to four years in state prison. Another 10 received non-custodial sentences such as conditional discharges or probation, or their cases were covered by another case. One matter is still open. None are currently incarcerated. Defense counsel have been notified of the CRU’s findings.

DA Rocah’s separate criminal investigation into the MVPD Narcotics Division, prompted by the secret recordings, uncovered conduct and practices that led the District Attorney to request that the Department of Justice conduct a civil rights “pattern or practice” investigation, which it initiated in 2021. However, the recordings themselves are not admissible in court to prove the crimes discussed on them and could not alone support criminal charges. Although MVPD leadership offered and provided assistance with our investigation, without cooperation of certain Narcotics Division officers and civilians who would be key witnesses, charges could not be brought due to legally insufficient evidence to overcome the high burden of proof in criminal cases of beyond a reasonable doubt (report available here).

“I understand that people may be confused and possibly even disappointed by the lack of criminal charges after hearing the secretly-recorded conversations among certain Mount Vernon police officers. We could not rely on the allegations contained on the recordings as evidence in a court of law. Additionally, our criminal investigation was hampered by significant hurdles, such as recantations by an officer who was heard on the recordings alleging corruption, and lack of cooperation by some law enforcement and key witnesses,” DA Rocah said. “As a result of this investigation, and the findings by my Conviction Review Unit, I am proud of the subsequent actions we have taken to help restore even a measure of public faith in our justice system.”

Bovell sued the MVPD and the City of Mt. Vernon for wrongful termination. The coverage of his recordings of the MVPD, by reporter George Joseph, are powerful. <https://gothamist.com/news/mount-vernon-police-tapes-officer-says-some-drug-dealers-operate-with-free-reign>

## **Memorial Day Ceremonies in Eastchester**

**The Veterans Ceremony and Parade Committee (VCPC), which is comprised of veterans from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2285 and Post 2768 and the American Legion Post 979, announce that they are sponsoring a Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on May 18, 2023, at the Eastchester School auditorium at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:30. This year commemorates The Korean War Armistice and lasts approximately one hour that includes videos, patriotic music and honoring local residents who made the supreme sacrifice.**

**In addition, the VCCP is sponsoring a Memorial Day Parade in Eastchester on May 29, 2023. It commences at 11:00 am from the Eastchester Library parking lot and proceeds south on White Plains Road to Depot Square in Tuckahoe.**

## *Migrants, continued from pg 1-*

and you gave me something to drink, “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (NIV) End of verse.

This is what I am taught as part of my faith. I would not trade having been born in Mt. Vernon NY, and having a public education, and going to college, find work and have a better life than my parents had.

“But I can understand why someone would walk a thousand miles with their children to the border for the opportunity to have a better life. Human compassion has to be met with pragmatism. We do not have the resources to solve the problems of the world, but we cannot turn a blind eye either. It is not acceptable to say you don’t look like me go back to where you came from. That’s not acceptable either. What do we believe in and what are we willing to put behind that belief?” said Latimer.

Latimer’s comments were more suitable for a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate. But as he pointed out, “Without a national policy we have gridlock.”

Latimer’s comments were in preparation for a likely upcoming request to house some of the NYC migrants here in Westchester, and contrasted with the views of Rockland County Executive Ed Day.

Latimer signed the Immigrant Protection Act, in 2018, which protected undocumented persons in Westchester from ICE or other Federal law enforcement seeking to deport illegals.

The other question if Westchester were asked, and accepted migrants from NYC is where would they be housed?

## *Ardsley WWII Vets, continued from pg 4*

Sponsored by Ardsley American Legion Post 458

· Kenneth D. Wood (AHS, Class of ’42), 2nd Lieutenant, 9th Air Force, Army Air Corps, Air Medal for Bravery

· Gordon B. Kreutz (AHS, Class of ’44), machine gunner with U.S. Army (General Patton’s Third Army)

· Howard R. Secor (AHS Class of ’41), U.S. Navy, submarine service, U.S. Navy Meritorious Medal

· Daniel R. Geis (AHS Class of ’37), Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army artillery, Italy Invasion, North Africa and Tunisian campaigns

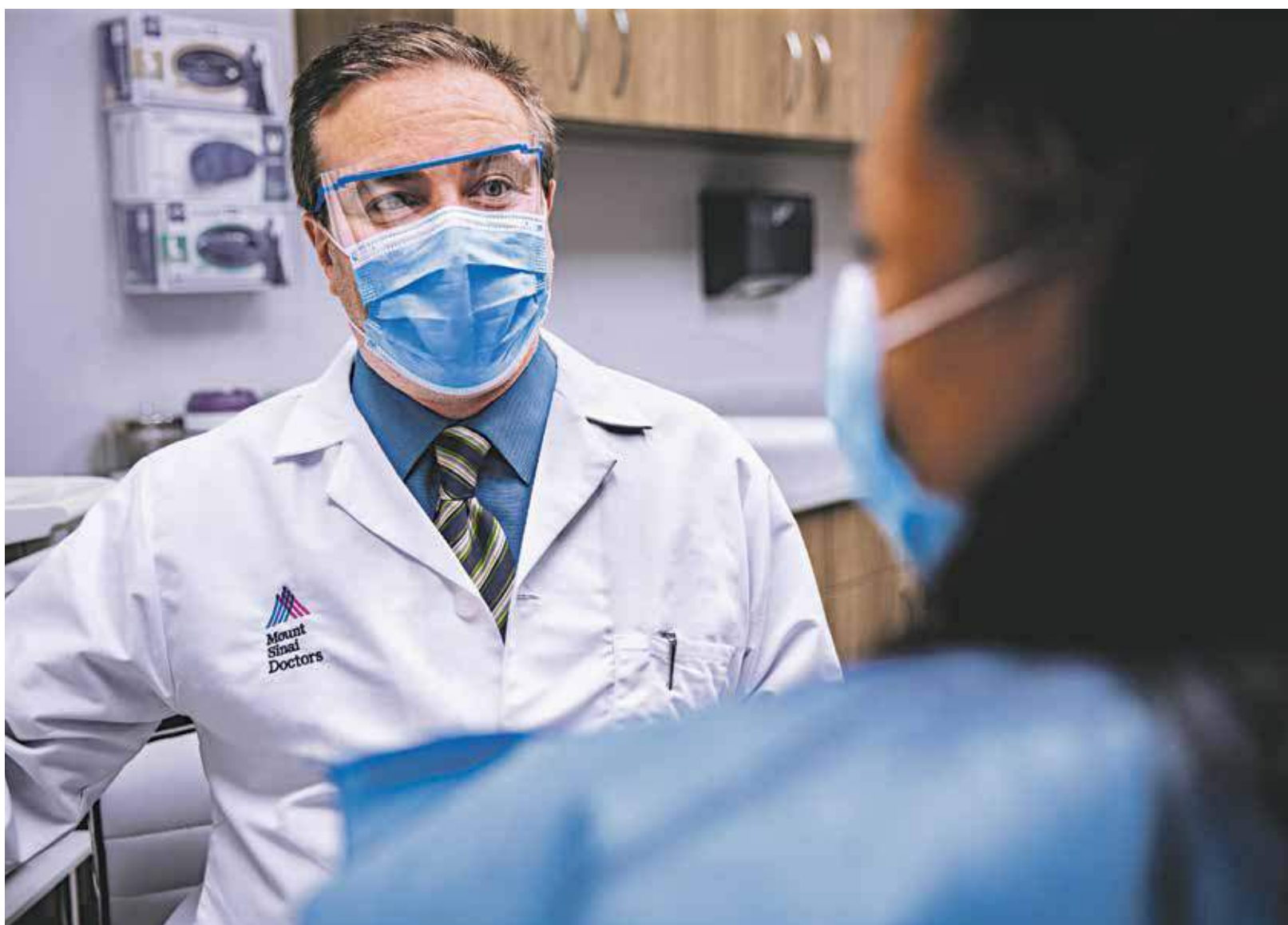
· Edward J. Lynn, Jr (AHS, Class of ’42), Private First Class, U.S. Army, 29th Infantry Division

· Robert L. Kakerbeck (native of Ardsley whose schooling was divided between Ardsley elementary and Elmsford high school), fighter pilot, Army Air Corps, 336 Fighter Squadron, 4th Fighter Group

The cost of a Military Tribute Banner is \$210.00. To sponsor your banner, visit: [militarytributebanners.org](http://militarytributebanners.org), click ‘Banner Programs’ & locate ARDSLEY, NY’. The deadline for ordering a banner to be displayed along with other banners of Ardsley’s veterans is July 31, 2023. For more information, contact Sharon Colabello at [ardsleymilitarybanners2022@gmail.com](mailto:ardsleymilitarybanners2022@gmail.com)

Note: More information about the military service and family backgrounds including photos of the 14 Ardsley young men who served and did not return to their hometown are detailed in “Ardsley, NY The War Years: 1941-1945,” a book that was published by Fred N. Arone and Patricia Arone in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war. Copies of the 88-page volume are available at the Ardsley Public Library, Ardsley Historical Society and the Ardsley High School History Club.

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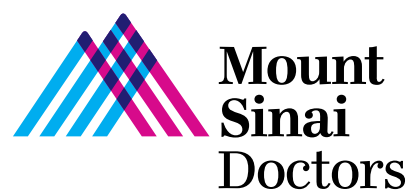
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