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OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES  
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**COMBAT INFANTRY VETERANS HONORED  
ON STATE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

Commissioner John Egan joined decorated veterans today during a dedication ceremony paying tribute to recipients of the Combat Infantrymen's Badge (CIB) and those who served in combat operations while defending the United States.

The ceremony was jointly hosted by the New York State Office of General Services and the Combat Infantrymen's Association, in Albany, and coincided with the placement of a special marker highlighting the CIB at the New York State World War II Memorial.

"The Combat Infantry Badge was created during World War II to honor soldiers who personally fought in dangerous active ground combat," explains Commissioner Egan. "The placement of a Combat Infantry Badge marker on the New York State World War II Memorial pays tribute to the thousands of New Yorkers who courageously served to defend our freedom. On behalf of Governor Paterson, and as a veteran myself, I am proud to represent the agency charged with caring for the Memorial on behalf of New York State."

The dedication took place on the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Officially established on October 7, 1943, the Combat Infantry Badge was awarded to qualified soldiers in the United States Army who fought in World War II between December 7, 1941 and September 3, 1945. Still in service, the Badge recognizes Army infantry and Special Forces members from numerous other conflicts as well, including over 54,000 Army soldiers serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**About the World War II Memorial**

The World War II monument is located on the south side of Madison Avenue adjacent to the Cultural Education Complex. It features curved granite copings that encircle the left half of the pool which are inscribed with the significant dates, places, and battles that occurred in the Pacific theater, including Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, and Iwo

Jima. The right half of the monument represents the European theater, such as the Invasion of Normandy (D-Day) and the Battle of the Bulge.

Two large granite panels serve to divide the pool in half and commemorate those who served and the ideals that inspired them. The north panel includes Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Four Freedoms. Additionally, enameled bronze plaques depict the ribbons of the six primary World War II service medals, and every campaign fought is inscribed on the panel. The south panel includes quotes from General Douglas MacArthur and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A stainless steel eagle serves as a powerful focal point at the center of the pool. Created by Robert Eccleston and cast at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon, New York, this icon is mounted atop a pedestal, onto which the dedication is inscribed.

The walkway around the pool is constructed of granite slabs, edged with cobblestone to show the rough, narrow road traveled during the war. Surrounding the walkway are tall arborvitae hedges in the shape of a wreath, signifying the heroism and triumph of the war and the grief. Seven flags flank the south wall of hedges, representing the United States, New York State, and the five branches of the Armed Forces.

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