

## SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



Office of Legislator Robert Trotta

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### **Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta Recognizes Fort Salonga WWII and Korean Veteran at the Battle of Fort Slongo Reenactment**



**Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta presented Al Hyde (right) with a proclamation commending his bravery, heroism and service to his country.**

(Smithtown, NY)...As part of Smithtown's 350 anniversary celebration, the Fort Salonga Civic Association took residents back in time to the year 1781, showcasing such events as a working military camp, as well as music, cooking and artillery demonstrations, and the reenactment of the Battle of Fort Slongo. Prior to the battle sequence, Suffolk County Legislator Rob Trotta introduced WWII and Korean veteran, Al Hyde, who resides in Fort Salonga. Mr. Hyde was shot down over North Africa and although he suffered serious facial injuries, he hid for four hours until two soldiers could reach him by a truck. Fellow fighter pilots flew over him to protect him from an attack by German soldiers. Mr. Hyde continued to fly military planes, including more than 70 missions over Mt. Everest to provide needed supplies to the Chinese. After his service, he was an Eastern Airline pilot for more than 30 years. He grew up in Kings Park and raised his own family in Smithtown before moving to Fort Salonga.

"I met Al at a veterans' breakfast and was so impressed with his military background and what he did for his country, particularly at such a young age. He had a remarkable career in the Air Force and as an Eastern airline pilot. I am very proud to know him," said Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta.