

# NEWS:



Edward A. Diana  
Orange County Executive

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For Release: Immediate

## **ORANGE JOINS CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS PROGRAM**

Goshen- Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana, NYS Senator William J. Larkin, Jr. Orange County Clerk Donna Benson, Orange County Legislator Greg Townsend, former Congressman Ben Gilman and County Veterans Service Director Tony Zippo joined with members of the Orange County Veterans Coalition and WTBQ Radio Personality Uncle Buck to announce the County's participation in the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program.

"The Cell Phones for Soldiers Program is a great way to show our support for our troops stationed overseas," said Diana. "I want to commend all of our veteran's organizations and WTBQ's Uncle Buck for their support of this program."

Added County Clerk Donna Benson, "We will be placing these collection boxes in all County Department of Motor Vehicle Offices for residents who want to donate their old phones for this important program."

The County DMV Offices are located at 255 Main Street, Goshen, 128 Broadway, Newburgh, 14 King Street, Middletown and 20 Hammond Street, Port Jervis.

This program collects over 15,000 cell phones a month across the nation. These phones are then sent to ReCellular which, in turn, donates a one hour pre-paid calling card to a soldier or sailor overseas.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Berquist from Norwell, Massachusetts with \$21.00 of their own money. Since then, this registered 501c3 non-profit organization has raised almost \$1 million dollars and distributed more than 400,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas.

For further information on this release please contact Richard Mayfield in the County Executive's Office at 845-291-2721.

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