



Press Release

New York Wing
Civil Air Patrol
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For Immediate Release: 18 Nov 2016

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New York Wing's Legislative Squadron Welcomes Assemblywoman Lupardo

Binghamton, NY- Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo received her official Civil Air Patrol membership certificate and ID card Thursday night at a meeting of the Broome-Tioga Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol. Lt Col Douglas Jensen, CAP presented her certificate on behalf of interim NY Wing Commander Lt Col Thomas Carello, CAP. Assemblywoman Lupardo is now a member of New York Wing's Legislative Squadron and holds the honorary grade of Major.

"It's an honor to join CAP's Legislative Squadron and hold the honorary rank of Major," said Lupardo.

Lupardo's interest in aviation stems from her father's service in World War II. Frank Lupardo was a flight mechanic in the US 13th Army Air Corps and served in the Pacific Theater. She shared some of her personal history with the cadets of NY-292 Thursday night. She brought some of her late father's military memorabilia to show the cadets.

"I got my love of country and of public service from my father," Lupardo said. "He was a great man who loved to share his flight stories; he shared them right to the end."

Assemblywoman Lupardo is the Co-Chair of the Legislative Aviation Caucus. In this role, she works to sponsor and pass legislation that helps promote and grow the aviation industry.

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 78 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol's 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its members additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World



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War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.cap.news for more information.