

Kathie Freston Inducted Into The Veterans Hall Of Fame

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(Photo Credit: Senate Photography) Senator Sue Serino is pictured above with Kathie Freston, 2015 NYS Senate Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee

ALBANY—Senator Sue Serino (R, C, I—Hyde Park), at a ceremony in Albany on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, announced that **Kathie Freston of Kent Lakes was named to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame.**

The Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes and celebrates outstanding veterans who have distinguished themselves in both military and civilian life. Ms. Freston was one of only eight women inducted this year.

“I am in awe of the varied accomplishments of Kathie Freston,” said Senator Serino. “To say she has lived a big life would be an understatement—she’s played a direct role in one of our nation’s greatest historic achievements and she utilizes her unique skill set each and every day to improve life throughout our local communities.”

According to her biography, having earned Top Secret security clearance in 1953 during the McCarthy



Era, the Marines were able to train Ms. Freston to run the **Enigma Machine** at the communications center of the USMC Headquarters at Quantico, VA. There, she used her ingenuity and integrity to accurately decode, re-code, and deliver the messages that were coming and going. In essence, she was responsible for the safe delivery of the most sensitive of information, operations, equipment and troop movements and

was constantly accompanied by armed guards on base.

“Ms. Freston is a true trailblazer,” noted Serino. “To be a female Marine during that time was a small victory in and of itself. To then excel at such a critical role in the War is even more impressive—what’s more, is that Ms. Freston’s commitment to service didn’t end with her military career.”

Ms. Freston was honored as a 2014 Emerging Trailblazer by the Putnam County Chambers of Commerce and she was named the 2011 Town of Kent Volunteer of the Year. She earned her Masters of Arts from NYU and went on to teach for over thirty years. She’s also engaged her passion for the theater throughout her life—acting herself and starting the charity H. G. Fairfield, to use arts and culture to promote economic development and environmental stewardship.

“I am not only honored, but humbled, to nominate Kathie Freston for the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame,” concluded Serino. “She has truly lead an outstanding life, both in the military and beyond. On behalf of the NYS Senate, I thank Ms. Freston for her selfless service and dedication to our nation and our state.”

