



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: September 19, 2023**

## **SARATOGA COUNTY HONOR DECEASED VETERANS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES DAVID E. MCDONALD OF CHARLTON**

BALLSTON SPA, NY – The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors and the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency held its monthly Honor Deceased Veterans Program on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at the County Building in Ballston Spa with a ceremony honoring David E. McDonald of the Town of Charlton.

McDonald entered the US Army on August 2, 1966. McDonald served as a Field Artilleryman with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Composite Artillery Battalion, 197<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment at Ft Benning, GA where he trained on 105- and 155-mm Howitzers, as well as “Honest John” rockets.

For his service he was awarded the National Defense Service medal and the Expert Rifle Badge. McDonald was honorably discharged on August 1, 1968.

McDonald married his soulmate, Shirley Shakan in 1966 and together they had four children.

After service McDonald worked for Sheet Metal Workers #83 as a superintendent, through MCD Mechanical. He was a member of the American Legion Post 234 in Ballston Spa and served as Commander for seven years. While serving as Post Commander, McDonald played an integral role in the Saratoga County Honor Deceased Veterans program and was a very active Veterans supporter and advocate. He also served as the President of the Burnt Hills Softball Club. He was also a Lifetime member of the Gooley Club, for his 45 years of dedication support and exemplary conduct in the pursuit of the outdoor sports. McDonald served as the NYS Skeet Shooting Association president and is in the NYS Skeet Shooting Hall of Fame.

David was born on March 9, 1947, and passed away at age 75 on October 24, 2022.

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Established in 1999 by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, the Honor Deceased Veterans Program provides a way for county leadership and residents to show gratitude for the service of veterans past and present. The program honors a range of veterans with tremendous stories of service, sacrifice, and historical significance. Honorees include those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the name of defending our great country and veterans whose stories continued past their military service.

The ceremony is dedicated to a different Saratoga County veteran each month. Board members rotate throughout the year in selecting a veteran to memorialize, providing for veterans from all over the county to be honored. To date, more than 300 Saratoga County Veterans have been honored.

The public is encouraged to show their support for our veterans at the Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony, held at 2PM on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information about the Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony, please contact Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency at (518) 884-4115.

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Photos and Captions:



Members of the McDonald family with Saratoga County officials and representatives from state and federal elected officials' offices at the Saratoga County Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony on September 19, 2023, memorializing David E. McDonald of the Town of Charlton.

