



E-News May 2015

May 22, 2015

Volume 1, Number 8

This Issue:

- Thurgood Marshall
- East Ramapo Update
- TZ Path Update
- Bench By the Road
- Indian Point
- Priority
- Haitian Unity Day

Legislation to Increase Participation in Organ Donation

On May 12th I joined Assistant Assembly Speaker Felix W. Ortiz (D-Kings), colleagues and supporters of organ donation at a press conference to announce legislation I co-sponsored aimed at increasing participation in the state's Donate Life Registry. Currently, New York State ranks third to last in donor designation *in the nation*. I know firsthand what it means to have a family member among the 10,000 New Yorkers—men, women and children-- who are waiting for a life-saving transplant. We must do everything we can to increase organ donation rates encouraging New Yorkers to save a life by signing the New York State Donate Life Registry. You can register by going to my website and clicking on the donate life button.

Dear Friends,

As Memorial Day approaches we're reminded that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. The New York State Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee has an excellent [site](#).

In 1871 [Frederick Douglas](#) gave his famous Memorial Day speech at the monument to the Unknown Dead of the Civil War at Arlington National Cemetery. His famous quote, "If there is no struggle there is no progress" has never been more meaningful. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every one of our veterans for their sacrifice and service. Wishing you all a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend! Hope to see you at some of our area's [events!](#)

Warmest Regards,

- Ellen C. Jaffee

Fourth Annual Thurgood Marshall Day in New York State

The law I [sponsored \(A.7068-A\) designates May 17th](#) as a day for all New Yorker's to remember the Honorable Thurgood Marshall's civil rights victories. In 1943 as a young attorney for the NAACP, he argued to desegregate the former [Brook School here in Hillburn](#), one of the last formally segregated schools in New York State. After years of working with the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and members of the NAACP, to get the site listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, I am pleased to announce on June 11, the site will be considered for nomination by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation.



East Ramapo Legislation Update Click [here](#).

South Nyack Wins: TZ Bridge Path Moves to Interchange 10



South Nyack village residents and officials who have been advocating for the State to move the walk/bike path out of a residential neighborhood were successful in their efforts. The NYS Thruway Authority has agreed to the move. The path will now end at Interchange 10 off the Thruway in South Nyack.

Contact Me

Website:
Ellen Jaffee

Email:
jaffee@assembly.state.ny.us

District Office:
One Blue Hill Plaza
Pearl River, NY 10965
845-624-4601

Albany:
Room 650
LOB
Albany NY, 10965
518-455-5118



Like me on Facebook
www.facebook.com/JaffeeNY



Follow me on Twitter
@EllenCJaffee

Recognizing the Nyack Bench by the Road Committee

I was proud to recognize the **Nyack Bench By The Road Commemoration Committee** on the floor of the Assembly who were dedicated to creating a permanent memorial to honor the presence and contributions of African Americans to Nyack and to the surrounding Rockland community.



Speaking Out on Public Safety and the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

On May 20th the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) [held a public meeting](#) and presented its annual assessment of safety performance at Indian Point. For several years I passed a resolution in the NYS Assembly to oppose the re-licensing of Indian Point plants 1 and 2 unless the plant undergoes a true, outside independent safety assessment; that emergency experts from outside the NRC agree on an evacuation plan that could work; and that all criteria in the licensing of new reactors are considered and applied to those reactors seeking a license extension. You can read my full statement to the NRC [here](#).

Priority Projects to Strengthen Our Communities

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015-2016 Enacted Budget has authorized funding allowing me to nominate [Priority Projects for consideration for the State Fiscal Year \(SFY\) 2015-2016](#) in the 97th district. The projects are to be designated for purposes that have a public benefit and must be open and available to all individuals on a nonsectarian basis. These projects are to support services and activities to strengthen communities. A list of the agencies that were nominated for priority projects can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Haitian Unity Day



On May 11th I welcomed members of Rockland's Haitian community to the State Legislature to proclaim Haitian Unity Day throughout New York State and to officially recognize on the Assembly floor the significant contributions that Haitian Americans have made to the United States and New York State.

Assembly Votes to Delay Teacher Evaluation Impact

On [May 20th the Assembly approved a package of measures](#) I was happy to co-sponsor aimed at slowing the implementation of the new teacher evaluation system. The bill would extend the deadline for the Board of Regents to develop regulations for the new evaluation system and gives local school districts more time to implement the new performance review standards. The [measure](#) also would reverse the linking of a boost of state education aid to the enactment of the new evaluations. More funding would be allocated to the Department of Education, about \$8.4 million, to help districts enact more locally based testing.