



Orange County Government  
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**County Executive Neuhaus presents Jim Scali of Circleville with  
March's Citizen of the Month Award**

*Scali is the founder of the Town of Wallkill American Legion Patriotism Program*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus has recognized Jim Scali as his Citizen of the Month Award winner for the month of March.

Scali, a U.S. Army veteran, started the Town of Wallkill American Legion Patriotism Program in the fall of 2015. The initiative teaches students in third through 12<sup>th</sup> grades about veterans, the variety of issues they face, honoring those who have served and the significance of patriotism.

“The Patriotism Program has been well-received by students, faculty and administration at schools throughout Orange County,” Neuhaus said. “Jim has done a wonderful job raising awareness about our veterans and his dedication to this important endeavor is inspirational. The Patriotism Program is a great way to thank veterans for everything they have done and share with students what that these men and women have sacrificed for our country.”

Since its inception, the Patriotism Program has visited 47 schools in seven districts, mainly in Orange County, reaching approximately 19,000 students. The 30-minute program includes videos, student participation, a question and answer session and a flag demonstration with a bugle salute. It concludes with a video of Lee Greenwood's performance of God Bless the USA at the World Series at Yankee Stadium in November of 2001 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

All students are provided with bracelets that read “Patriot.” Scali, 69, is joined at the Patriotism Program event by other veterans and American Legion members from various posts.

“The Patriotism Program is a wonderful way to teach students about our veterans, patriotism and Americanism,” Scali said. “The response from the community has been phenomenal. I appreciate the support and recognition we have received from County Executive Neuhaus. We know that County Executive Neuhaus cares deeply about Orange County’s veterans and is a true patriot.”

Scali joined the U.S. Army shortly after graduating from Middletown High School in 1966. He served for three years, including a 14-month tour in the Republic of Korea, leaving the service with the rank of Sergeant and Tank Commander. Scali is the First Vice Commander of the Town of Wallkill American Legion Post 1181. He coordinates the Patriotism Program with Barry Schnipper, American Legion Post 1181’s Adjutant. Schnipper is a U.S. Navy veteran.

Scali, who resides in Circleville with his wife of 46 years, Susan, is also a member of VFW Post 692 and the Orange County Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 202. The Orange County Veterans Coalition named Scali its “Veteran of the Year” in 2016.

Neuhaus introduced his Citizen of the Month Award, which will acknowledge outstanding Orange County residents, in January. To nominate someone for the Citizen of the Month Award, please email [ceoffice@orangecountygov.com](mailto:ceoffice@orangecountygov.com) or mail a letter to “Citizen of the Month” at 255-275 Main Street Goshen, N.Y. 10924. Be sure to include the nominee’s name, hometown, a list of their accomplishments, why you are nominating them and any other pertinent information. Nominees must be from Orange County.

For more information, contact Justin Rodriguez, Assistant to the County Executive for Communications and Media Relations at 845.291.3255 or [jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com](mailto:jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com).

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*(From left to right) U.S. Navy veteran Barry Schnipper, who serves as the Adjutant for Town of Wallkill American Legion Post 1181, Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus and Jim Scali, a U.S. Army veteran, who started the Town of Wallkill American Legion Patriotism Program in the fall of 2015.*