



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

For Immediate Release  
May 25, 2017

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**Neuhaus serves as keynote speaker at United Way's Conversation  
Around Veterans Needs**

*Forum provided an opportunity for community leaders, residents and veterans to  
discuss a variety of issues Vets face*

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus was the keynote speaker at the United Way of the Orange-Dutchess Region's Community Conversation Around Veterans Needs on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Newburgh Activity Center.

“The United Way’s forum provided an opportunity to discuss important topics and issues relevant to veterans,” Neuhaus said. “It was an informative event which also highlighted the many resources in Orange County and the Hudson Valley that serve our veterans. The County is home to approximately 23,000 veterans and we will continue to provide these men and women with the best services and benefits we can. We will forever be grateful to our veterans for their service and sacrifice.”

The Community Conversation Around Veterans Needs brought together community leaders, residents, and veterans to discuss important issues and how to ensure that our veterans receive the services they deserve. The forum included a panel discussion, which included Neuhaus, Michael Bark from Orange County's Youth Bureau, Jim Coughlan, Dutchess County Comptroller and founder of Weekend for Warriors, Freddimir “Freddy” Garcia, Presidential Fellow at Marist College; Max Kemlage of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the New York Air National Guard 105th Base Defense Squadron, Larry Neumann, Coordinator of

Mental Health Association in Orange County's Vet2Vet Program and Julio Ronda, a U.S. Air Force investment banker.

Neuhaus spoke for about 30 minutes about his military career, his work with Orange County's veterans and the assistance the County's Veterans Service Agency provides for them. The County Executive is an Officer in the Navy Reserves and is currently assigned to the Atlantic Fleet.

"United Way is proud to fight for those who fought for us," said Jeannie Montano, President & CEO of United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. "Today our community came together to address the needs of the veterans in the Hudson Valley and we appreciate the support of County Executive Neuhaus."

In January, the first community conversation marked the launch of United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region's (UWDOR) participation in the national United Way veterans' initiative, Mission United. From that conversation, UWDOR designed requests for proposals for pilot funding of programs for 2017-18. Grant recipients will be announced in June. The funding will help programs to continue to connect veterans in Dutchess and Orange counties with the critical help they need.

To learn more about the services and programs that the Orange County Veterans Service Agency (VSA) offers, call the office direct at 291-2470, or email VSA Director at [cfarrell@orangecountygov.com](mailto:cfarrell@orangecountygov.com).

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