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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **COUNTY TREASURER PRAISES WAR HEROES AT HEAVILY- ATTENDED CEREMONY**

WILSON—Niagara County Treasurer Kyle Andrews told an audience numbering in the hundreds Monday that today's warriors are the descendants of heroes of past American conflicts during a poignant address at an annual commemoration of Memorial Day in his hometown of Wilson.

"The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan today, they're the direct descendants of the troops of Yorktown and Normandy," Andrews said. "The battlefronts are different, the weapons have changed, but the fight remains the same. And on this Memorial Day, we honor not just the sacrifice made, but the story that each of our fallen soldiers has left behind."

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEO OF COUNTY TREASURER KYLE ANDREWS, KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT WILSON'S MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, LAUDING VETERANS AND FALLEN WARRIORS](#)

Andrews, who is a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, told the story of [Army Maj. Steven Hutchison](#), the oldest soldier to die in the Global War on Terror. Hutchison, a Vietnam veteran, returned to military service after the 9/11 terror attacks. He was killed in action in Iraq one year ago.

"In 2007, after Steve lost the love of his life to breast cancer, this 59-year-old veteran, who was already retired from civilian life, and who had served in Vietnam some 40 years earlier, once again took up arms in defense of this great nation," Andrews said. "As before, he was again sent off to a far-away place, and to a war that wasn't always popular. But this time, the outcome was different. Army Maj. Steve Hutchison, at 60 years old, was killed in Iraq last May when a homemade bomb went off in his vehicle."

Andrews highlighted Hutchison's story to make a point often absent in news reports.

"Behind every flag-draped casket, and each name on a memorial wall, there is a story," Andrews said. "A story of a father not coming home to his wife and children. A story of a mother whose heart will ache forever at the loss of a child. And the story of fellow soldiers ridden with guilt at what they might have done to prevent the loss of one of their fellow soldiers. Above all else, however, this is the story of our country and of the freedoms which we celebrate today."

Andrews was joined at the commemoration by Niagara County Sheriff James R. Voutour and County Legislator David E. Godfrey, both also of Wilson, and elected officials of the town and village of Wilson's governments. The ceremony was led by members of American Legion Post 836.