



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

MERLE JOHN TOBIAS

Merle John Tobias first served in the New York Army National Guard in Hornell before being transferred to active duty in the United States Army. He served during and after the fall of the Berlin Wall in Germany in November 1989, and achieved the rank of Sergeant.

While serving in Germany, Mr. Tobias held many duties, including his role as a representative of the Army, where he met with local school students to describe his military experience and his high school activities growing up in the United States.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall, Mr. Tobias was transferred to the Army's 3rd Armored Division during the Persian Gulf War to serve in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Shortly after returning to the United States, where he was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, Mr. Tobias was once again deployed to the Middle East to provide security for a missile complex during Operation Southern Watch.

Mr. Tobias left active duty and returned to the National Guard Unit in Hornell until 1998.

In his civilian life, Mr. Tobias served as a counselor for boys at Kinship Youth and Family Services in Steuben County, where he supervised and served as a positive role model, and also met his wife, Ann.

After continuing his education at Alfred State College and earning an Associate degree in Health and Human Services, he was employed at The Arc Allegany-Steuben, supervising staff and assisting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout the two counties. Following his tenure at The Arc, Mr. Tobias began a career of service to veterans at the Bath VA Medical Center, where he has held numerous positions, including Social Services Assistant for homeless veterans and veterans with substance abuse challenges. Mr. Tobias states that working directly with these veterans as a Social Services Assistant has been the highlight and joy of his career.

Mr. Tobias is a lifetime member of VFW Post 2250 in Hornell and the recipient of numerous military and civilian awards and commendations. However, he says that, "My biggest award is knowing I helped ONE person who needed it"



MERLE JOHN TOBIAS WAS SELECTED AS A
2024 VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BY
SENATOR THOMAS F. O'MARA.

2024