

# News Release

NEW YORK WING  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Robert Stronach, public affairs officer, 315-796-9468, rstronach@ner.cap.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2012

## NY Wing Inducts Rep. Ann Buerkle into Congressional Squadron



Lt. Col. Tom Carello, vice commander of New York Wing, presents Civil Air Patrol membership credentials to Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle in her Syracuse Congressional Office. Photo by Lt. Col. Larry Brinker.

SYRACUSE -- U.S. Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle, R-NY (25th Congressional District in upstate New York) was inducted into the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Congressional Squadron on March 16 and received a briefing on CAP's homeland security, search-and-rescue and disaster relief missions.

During a ceremony in her Syracuse Congressional Office, Buerkle received membership credentials from a New York Wing delegation that included Wing Vice Commander Lt. Col. Tom Carello of Syracuse, wing assistant government relations advisor Lt. Col. Larry Brinker of Binghamton, Central New York Group Commander Lt. Col. Dan Brodsky of Clay, Group Vice Commander Lt. Col. John Jones of Utica, and three cadets from Syracuse Cadet Squadron -- C/Maj. Caleb McLean, Aerospace Engineering major at Syracuse University; C/Tech Sgt. Courtney Pileski, sophomore at Skaneateles High School, and C/Staff Sgt. David Oliver, a senior at Manlius Pebble Hill High School (who earned a nomination to West Point from Buerkle).



As a Congressional member, Buerkle wears the honorary grade of lieutenant colonel and is authorized to fly in CAP aircraft and participate in CAP activities.

"We sincerely appreciate the work the congresswoman does in Washington on behalf of the New York military community, the nation, and its veterans," noted Carello. "Since World War II, the volunteer members of Civil Air Patrol have served America admirably. Congresswoman Buerkle's membership and service will add to that legacy."

"There is no higher priority for America than its national defense and security," said Buerkle. "Chartered by Congress, Civil Air Patrol is an essential element of that effort, providing homeland security, aerospace education and youth development programs. I'm honored to join their ranks and look forward to participating in CAP activities with my colleagues in the Congressional Squadron."

Brinker briefed Buerkle on recent disaster relief and homeland security missions in the state, including aerial damage assessment and ground team support after severe storms and flooding, and flying CAP planes as rogue aircraft for the Air National Guard's F-15 fighter interception practice.

Brinker asked Buerkle to support legislation that would award the Congressional Gold Medal for the Civil Air Patrol's World War II service as well as support for restoring \$4.5 million for CAP operations and maintenance, \$10 million for aircraft and \$1 million for communications equipment to the 2013 Defense budget.



Lt. Col. Larry Brinker, New York Wing legislative officer, briefs Congresswoman Ann Marie Buerkle on Civil Air Patrol capabilities, including homeland security, search-and-rescue, and disaster relief missions. Photo by Lt. Col. Dan Brodsky.

The Civil Air Patrol is the search-and-rescue, cadet-mentoring and aerospace education auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, with more than 61,000 members nationwide.

The Central New York Group, headquartered at Hancock Air National Guard Base, oversees six squadrons in Watertown, Fulton, Syracuse, Rome and Utica.

CAP operates a fleet of 550 aircraft, and in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search-and-rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 54 lives in fiscal year 2011. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace

education and serve as mentors to nearly 27,000 young people participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 70 years.

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