

NEWS



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Orange County Executive
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03-30-11 THIS WEEK IN ORANGE COUNTY BY EDWARD A. DIANA

Today I had the opportunity to celebrate Literacy Week with the 5th grade students of Ms. Antisin's and Ms. Jung's classes at Goshen Intermediate School. The students were polite and well-behaved and even indulged me for a few minutes allowing me to speak about my teaching career, county government, and the importance of literacy before I read a short story to them.

The ability to read plays a critical role in a person's quality of life, health, personal development, and economic achievement. Sadly, according to Literacy Orange NY, one in five Americans is functionally illiterate. Imagine not being able to share a bedtime story with your child or read the directions on a medicine bottle. As a parent, teacher, and County Executive, I have seen first-hand the life-changing power of literacy. For many, it is like flipping on a light in a dark room; the world is brighter and the opportunities are endless. If you would like to bring light to someone's world by introducing them to the joys and wonders that come with reading, consider being a reading tutor. To learn more, visit Literacy Orange NY online at www.literacyorangenyny.org or call them at 863-9348.

Did you know that March 30 is National Doctor's Day? First observed in 1933 in Winder, Georgia, and officially made a national day of recognition by President George Bush in 1990, Doctor's Day celebrates the many contributions of physicians who care for the people of our nation. I'd like to wish a happy Doctor's Day to the many physicians of Orange County, especially our very own County Health Commissioner Dr. Jean Hudson, and County Medical Examiners Dr. Catanese and Dr. Hashish. Thank you for all that you do to enhance the health and well-being of our residents.

Speaking of health, next week Orange County Government will pay tribute to heart health as we participate in the American Heart Association's National Start! Walking Day on Wednesday, April 6. Spring is here, the weather is getting warmer, and summer is just around the corner. There's no better time to get fit and fight heart disease, which is the number one killer in the U.S. With physical exercise and a healthy diet, it's also one of the easiest to fight and reduce your risk. To learn more about the benefits of walking and other important health information, visit the Orange County Health Department's Healthy Orange pages on the County website at www.orangecountygov.com.

Finally, in recognition of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, I'd like to pay tribute to the many brave men and women who served in Vietnam. On this day in 1973, all U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. Many did not receive the recognition they earned for their service. This March 30, the U.S. Senate has encouraged Americans to recognize Vietnam veterans for their service and thank them for their sacrifice. Please join me in saying "welcome home Vietnam veterans."

Until next week, wishing you good health and happiness.

Edward A. Diana
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