

# And to all, a good '11

We've used this space in 2010 to tell you about a number of incredible local folks — from a Geneva native who turned her life around and earned a full appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy (Krista Ortiz) to a Geneva grad who uses the game of golf to help severely injured veterans get their lives back on track (David Windsor).

We've shared some heartwarming stories and some almost unbelievable ones, like a local man who got an e-mail from a German couple wondering if a name they'd uncovered crawled on an attic wall in a building they were refurbishing (Everett Olmstead) could have been related to him (he was; he was his father).

And we've looked at some major local issues (DeSales High School finances, the future of Lyons' Peppermint Days, economic development in the city of Geneva).

But in our final column of the year, instead of continuing to look back, I am going to look ahead. I am hoping 2011 brings a number of things for a number of people and places, some of which were featured in this very column over the last 12 months.

So here goes:

**To the late Steven B. Riccione and his family, friends and supporters** — The Congressional Medal of Honor. A well-deserved honor for the Geneva hero that has been way too long in coming.

**To the historic Hotchkiss Building in Lyons** — A well-heeled donor, especially one who cares about local history. Now, I was going to say, a "well-oiled" donor, especially interested in peppermint oil, but I held back.

**To Geneva city officials** — Some real honest-to-goodness economic development. Not just another steering committee or organization or agency or board with a mission statement focused on growth and development. And please not another study.

Oh, and a computer use policy.

**To Steve Agnello, who heads up the charges for a remarkable, free Christmas dinner at the VFW in Seneca Falls for veterans, homeless, elderly, lonely, in fact, anyone** — All the turkeys and hams he needs for a successful 16th year on Sunday, Dec. 25. Oh, and a restful Monday, Dec. 26.

**To Brett Favre** — A happy and healthy — and FINAL! — retirement.

**To officials of the Finger Lakes Boating Museum and Visitors Center in Geneva and the Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum in**

## MIKE CUTILLO



### Connections

#### Branchport — Facilities.

**To Kevin Powers, who has been running the Geneva Firemen's Parade for either 20 years or 100, depending on who you ask** — Another 20 years. Or hundred.

**To Joanne Galvin of Wolcott** — Official federal and/or state recognition for the "9/11 Remembrance Flag" designed by her and her late husband, designating it to fly at all observances of the tragedy in time for 2011's 10th anniversary.

**To Seneca County** — Resolutions of issues: land in trust issues, tax-free gas and cigarette issues, dissolution issues.

**To DeSales officials** — Solid financial footing for another three, four, five decades.

**To Lyons native and Syracuse basketball coach Jim Boeheim** — A "Melo" who is more like the previous Melo (superstar Carmelo Anthony who led the Orange to a national championship) than the current Melo (freshman Fab, who is averaging 2 points and 2 rebounds a game).

**To Finger Lakes wineries** — More national and international recognition.

**To Geneva singer, songwriter, author, humorist and globetrotter Christine Lavin** — A big-time No. 1 hit for a new song she's been working on called "Women Walking Wearing Wings." I don't see how it could be anything but a chart-topper, since it's based on something near and dear to a lot of our hearts: The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

**To me** — 6 (our anniversary), 8 (Willie Stargell's number), 9 (my favorite soccer number), 31 (daughter's birthday), 44 (greatest number in SU sports history) and 21 (Roberto Clemente's number) — aka the winning numbers plus Mega Ball in tonight's Mega Millions drawing. (Oh, and don't worry, boss, if I hit, I'll still be in Monday ... but Tuesday, you're on your own).

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