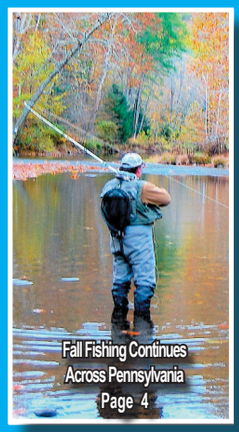
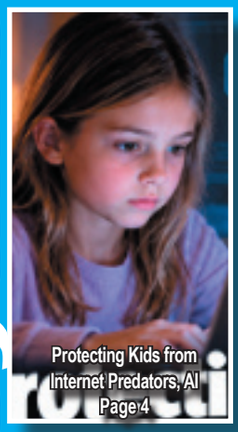
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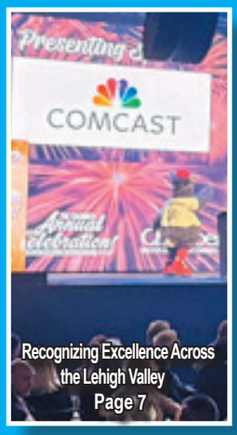
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A Salute to Our Veterans in Roseto



By Rep. AnnFlood

On Saturday, I was honored to join veterans, their families and members of the community in Roseto for the annual "A Salute to Our Veterans" ceremony at Mount Carmel Cemetery. The ceremony featured patriotic music, prayers and heartfelt tributes honoring the men and women whose service and sacrifice have helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy every day.

As Veterans Day approaches, it is especially important to pause and reflect on the debt of gratitude we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. One of the most meaningful parts of the morning was the opportunity to personally greet local veterans, thank them for their service and hear some of the stories that have shaped their lives and our communities.

While Veterans Day provides an important opportunity to honor those who served, our appreciation should not be limited to a single day. We are fortunate to have veterans throughout the 138th District who continue to lead, volunteer and make a difference. To all of our veterans, thank you for your service, your sacrifice and the example you set for future generations!

Celebrating the Best of the Slate Belt

By Michael Ortoski

UPPER MT. BETHEL - Local businesses, volunteers and community leaders were recognized during the 2026 Slate Belt Awards Dinner sponcered by the Slate Belt Chamber for their service, accomplishments and positive impact throughout the region. Beth Duyssen Dir. of the chamber was the Mcee for the evening.

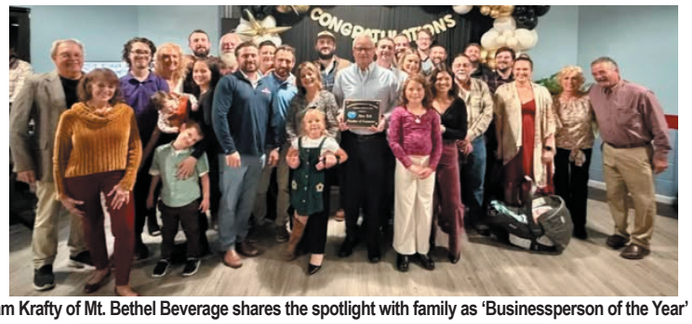
I had the pleasure of presenting the Legacy Award to Joe and Joeleen of J. DeFranco & Daughters Catering.

Honorees included:

- **Appreciation Award: Rosemary Albert, for 30 years of service as SBCC treasurer.**
- **Appreciation Award: Curtis Fehnel, CPA, for 30 years of providing tax and audit services to the chamber at no charge.**
- **Businessperson of the Year: Francis "Sam" Krafty of Mt. Bethel Beverage.**
- **Volunteer of the Year: Thomas Austin of North Bangor Fire Company.**
- **Best Nonprofit: TeamTommy Inc.**
- **Best Breakfast Spot: Bagels on the Corner and Deli.**
- **Best HVAC/Plumbing Service: Caiazzo's Heating and Air Conditioning.**
- **Best Pet Services: Leck Veterinary Hospital.**
- **Best Bakery/Sweet Treats: Nikki's Farmhouse Favorites.**
- **Best Auto Services: Bangor Tire and Auto.**

Lisa Amy from Rep. Ann Floods office presented a House citation to J. DeFranco and Daughters Catering in recognition of the company's Legacy Award and remarkable 100th anniversary. Congratulations to all of the award recipients and thank you for the many ways you contribute to the Slate Belt community!

Continued on page 19-20



Sam Krafty of Mt. Bethel Beverage shares the spotlight with family as 'Businessperson of the Year'



Legacy Award winners Joe and Joeleen of J. DeFranco & Daughters Catering, Michael Ortoski Chamber Board member was the presenter



Businessperson of the Year: Francis "Sam" Krafty of Mt. Bethel Beverage, Nancy Kessler Chamber Board member was the presenter

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