

*William F. O'Connor, III*

*Class of 1961*

*Columbia High School*

William F. O'Connor, III, currently serves as New York State Deputy Commissioner for the Design and Construction program. In this position he is responsible for a staff of 560 architects, engineers and construction managers, with an operating budget of some 51 million dollars and approximately 1 billion dollars in building construction projects. He began his career in 1967 as junior architect in the New York State OGS Design and Construction program. He rose rapidly through the ranks being promoted to positions of increasing responsibility until achieving his present position. Along the way, Mr. O'Connor took leave from his New York State position to serve on active military duty in Vietnam from 1968-1970, as Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His gallantry and talents were recognized during this service by his being awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service.

After graduation from Columbia High School in 1961, where he served as President of the Honor Society, Mr. O'Connor matriculated at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1961-62, where he successfully earned a B.S. degree in 1965; a B.S. in Architecture in 1966; a Masters in Architecture in 1967; and finally his MBA in 1975. During his academic experience at RPI, Mr. O'Connor managed to enjoy membership in Tau Beta Pi Honorary Fraternity while simultaneously earning honors in that institution's ROTC program.

Mr. O'Connor's distinguished professional career has established him as one of the premier designers and architects, both statewide and nationally. Testimony to his talents and skills in the design field are the outstanding memorials which he created for posterity at the Empire State Plaza. These monuments are respectively: the Police Officers Memorial; the Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial. To view them and experience their inspirational message is to understand the true character of the man who created them.

Mr. O'Connor's community service in no manner takes second place to the accomplishments of his professional career. His contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of a multitude of civic and educational entities is unsurpassed. His inspirational and dedicated leadership as chairperson at Hudson Valley Community College during a critical period in its history and his no less inspired leadership while President of the Board of Education for the Averill Park Central School District, has garnered him further recognition within the Capital Region as "A Man for All Seasons."

It is therefore with the utmost pride that the East Greenbush Education Foundation extends its congratulations to William F. O'Connor, III upon his induction into the Columbia High School Alumni Hall of Fame.