



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact Mark Onesi  
(716) 912-6268

June 15, 2009

# ONESI ANNOUNCES 4<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CANDIDACY SAYS DISTRICT DESERVES RESULTS

NIAGARA FALLS—A college dean and retired Army officer announced his candidacy for the Fourth District Legislative seat currently held by Minority Leader Dennis F. Virtuoso today.

Mark Onesi, who will seek the Republican, Conservative, and Independence lines, said that a need for jobs throughout the Western New York region as well as Niagara Falls had convinced him to seek a seat in county government.

"I'd like to fight for jobs for the county and for the area," Onesi said. "The job base is so limited, and we need to bring economic development to the city and some jobs for people."

Onesi said he hopes to put county resources to work helping bolster the economy of Niagara Falls.

"The county has the Niagara County Center for Economic Development and they could bring in development for the city as well as for the county," Onesi explained. "As a county legislator, I'll have some influence in that fight to bring those jobs and economic development to the area."

Onesi, who is dean of academic affairs at ITT Technical Institute in Buffalo, said that the difficult conditions faced by many of his students as they enter the regional workforce had demonstrated to him a need to show leadership on this issue in the Fourth District.

Onesi also vowed to be a strong advocate for Niagara Falls in another key area: its failing infrastructure, which he says is harming the city's vital tourism industry.

"Infrastructure, roads, buildings that are dormant—something needs to be done with it," Onesi said. "It's a tourist attraction that turns a lot of people off because of what's available for them. Just driving down the street isn't going to bring a lot of people here, as they tear their cars up. It's something that needs to be looked at closely."

Onesi said he would offer the Fourth District leadership on this issue.

"I think I could have some influence on the infrastructure problems," Onesi said. "It just needs somebody to push and take an interest in it. There's been representation that's been there for a long time, but not a whole lot has changed in the area since he's been there. So, it's time for new blood to take an opportunity to make some changes—some positive changes for the area."

Onesi said his more than two decades on active duty in the military uniquely suited him to take on the task of representing the Fourth District.

"One of the major things that I did in the military, and in the job that I have now is, I'm a problem-solver," Onesi said. "So if I see a problem, I'm going to take hold of it and do the best I can to solve it. Especially for the constituents of my area."

Onesi was stationed in places as far afield as the Pentagon and Korea, but said it was only natural to return to Niagara Falls. "I love the area," Onesi said. "I came back here after being gone 23 years in the military. I've seen the change from when I left to the conditions of the city and the area—they've just changed so much. And not for the better." That's why he's running to fight for Niagara Falls.

## ONESI ANNOUNCES 4<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT CANDIDACY

- Page 2 of 2 -

Onesi said the city he left when he began his military career was a stronger one, and one he would work to restore.

"I'd like to do what I can to bring it back to what it was 20 or 30 years ago, with jobs and people who were making money and could do things," he said. "They can't do that now. It's sad to see the number of people who have left because they don't feel there are any opportunities in the area. We've lost probably 20,000 or more people just in Niagara Falls alone in that time because of the opportunities not existing."

Onesi said that the conditions of his hometown were bad, and the Fourth District's current lack of representation had left its residents desperately needing a capable voice in county government.

One set of attributes Onesi learned during his military career made him ready to take on the task of advancing Niagara Falls' interests, he said.

"I'm a fighter," Onesi said. "I don't give up."

Onesi is active in his church and community and is a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.