



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES FORMER CHAIRMEN AT 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SESSION**

When the Ulster County Legislature first met on January 2, 1968, the first Chairman, Peter Savago, stepped to the podium and asked his fellow legislators to “consider the taxpayers, what with so many Federal and State mandated programs on us.”

The complete text of Chairman Savago’s speech was read by current Legislator and Vice Chairman James Maloney during the historic recognition of the first 45 years of the Ulster County Legislature. Legislator Maloney noted, “Isn’t it ironic that 45 years later, in 2013, this Legislature is still wrestling with many of the same issues?”

In attendance at that recognition event were the Honorable Peter J. Savago, Chairman from 1968 to 1976; Ms. Christina Gardner representing her late father, the Honorable Ernest J. Gardner, who served in 1977; the Honorable Louis M. Klein, Chairman from 1978 to 1979; the Honorable William R. West, Jr., Chairman from 1984 to 1985; the Honorable Richard B. Mathews, Chairman from 1986 to 1991; the Honorable Gerald Benjamin, Chairman from 1992 to 1993; the Honorable Elizabeth Alfonso representing her late husband, the Honorable Daniel L. Alfonso, Chairman from 1994 to 2000; the Honorable Ward D. Todd, Chairman from 2001 to 2003; the Honorable Richard A. Gerentine, Chairman from 2004 to 2006; the Honorable David B. Donaldson, Chairman from 2006 to 2009 and the Honorable Frederick J. Wadnola, Chairman from 2010 to 2011. The Honorable Thomas W. Roach, Jr., Chairman from 1980 to 1983, was unable to join the celebration but sent his regards.

It was noted by Legislator Maloney that the vision each of these former Chairmen had helped fulfill the promise to give Ulster County good progressive government, furnish necessary services and improvements while holding the line on property taxes.

Each of the former Chairmen were presented with a Legislative Proclamation signed by current Legislative Chairman Terry L. Bernardo and an Ulster County Legislature lapel pin.

In closing the first organizational speech in 1968, Chairman Savago stated, “May I ask for the maximum cooperation from the Legislators and the Department Heads so that we can give Ulster County good progressive government furnishing the necessary services and improvements while keeping an eye on the tax dollar.”

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[Picture from the Recognition Ceremony attached to this Press Release]



[From top left: David B. Donaldson, Frederick J. Wadnola, William R. West, Jr., James F. Maloney, Terry L. Bernardo, Louis M. Klein, Richard B. Matthews, Gerald Benjamin, Ward D. Todd, Richard A. Gerentine  
Seated from left: Elizabeth Alfonso, Peter J. Savago, Christina Gardner]