



**Susan Bysiewicz**  
Secretary of the State  
Connecticut

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## **BYSIEWICZ HONORS CT WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM FORMER SOVIET UNION**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM PAYS  
TRIBUTE TO CONNECTICUT'S WORLD WAR II VETERANS

**WEST HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today honored nearly 90 World War II veterans from the former Soviet Union living in Connecticut during a Public Service Awards ceremony at the Greater Hartford/Mandell Jewish Community Center in West Hartford. The West Hartford ceremony marked the 97<sup>th</sup> Public Service Award presentation to veterans of World War II by the Office of the Secretary of the State.



“Though fighting under a different flag, these veterans were key allies of the United States during World War II, summoning the courage to defeat Nazi tyranny and advance the cause of freedom,” Bysiewicz said. “They endured great sacrifice and witnessed horrific atrocities, and did it without great fanfare – without seeking recognition or asking to be honored. Many of these brave veterans were religiously persecuted in their home country after the war and sought refuge in the United States. Today we salute them as the greatest generation.”

Secretary Bysiewicz presented each veteran with an award in recognition of their service during the Second World War and invited two veterans, Dr. Mark Aronov and Lazar Grabarnick of West Hartford to share their stories of service with friends and family attending the event.

Today’s event is part of an on-going effort by the Secretary of the State’s Office to recognize volunteers and public servants. The Office of the Secretary of the State Public Service Awards Program began in 2001. Since then, the office has honored more than 16,000 people in Connecticut for their commitment to public service, including elected officials, professional firefighters, volunteer coaches, community and youth volunteers, board and commission members, emergency service workers and elections officials.