

# THE DAILY GAZETTE

THE LOCALLY OWNED VOICE OF THE CAPITAL REGION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### Tonko was right to recognize Rotterdam Junction's fire chief

Re Jan. 24 article, "Obama address to take on economic anxiety": Kudos to Rep. Paul Tonko for recognizing the Rotterdam Junction Fire Department by choosing its chief, Shawn Taylor, to accompany him to the State of the Union address in Washington.

Never in my life have I met a people as humble, connected to community, and appreciative as the people of Rotterdam Junction and Pattersonville. This demonstrates the congressman's true connection to the community he serves that he chose Mr. Taylor above all the other very worthy choices.

Rotterdam Junction and Pattersonville were deeply and permanently affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. I've been honored to work very closely with many community leaders to support the local efforts in these communities to rebuild. Everyone I spoke to was more concerned that we help their neighbor first. It has been an amazing experience that will stay with me forever.

By recognizing the Rotterdam Junction Volunteer Fire Department, Rep. Tonko has demonstrated, once again, how important the everyday person is to our collective safety and sense of community.

Thanks, Mr. Taylor, and the many others associated with the fire departments in Rotterdam Junction and Pattersonville for your caring commitment to your neighbors. You all are an example of what community should be.

**DEBRA L. SCHIMPF**

Schenectady

*The writer is executive director for Schenectady  
Community Action Program, Inc.*