



## Office of General Services

For Immediate Release: 6/30/2017

**Contact:**

Heather Groll | [heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov) | (518) 474-5987

### **'MURALS OF THE ERIE CANAL' EXHIBIT ON VIEW AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA VISITOR CENTER**

RoAnn Destito, New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner, announced a special exhibit, "Murals of the Erie Canal," featuring two murals that were painted during the 2016 Global Mural Conference in the Rochester suburb of Fairport and depict scenes from the canal's storied past. The exhibit will be on view outside the Empire State Plaza Visitor Center and Gift Shop through September 1.

"We at OGS are pleased to be participating in the celebration of the Erie Canal's 200th anniversary with this exhibit of murals created by New York artists who are raising awareness of the canal's history through their work," Commissioner Destito said. "I want to join Governor Cuomo in encouraging people to attend the many events commemorating the Erie Canal's bicentennial that have been planned in canal communities across the state."

"As we celebrate the bicentennial of the Erie Canal's groundbreaking, these murals help convey its rich and vibrant history," said Brian U. Stratton, New York State Canal Corporation director. "I hope they inspire more people to not only learn more about the Erie Canal, but to also go out and explore this iconic waterway."

#### **The Murals**

"Tears on the Canal" is a 7- by -17-foot mural painted by artist Jane Grace Taylor of Webster, Monroe County. It depicts the Rev. Eleazar Williams leading members of the Oneida Nation down the Erie Canal following the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The act was passed during the administration of President Andrew Jackson and Vice President Martin Van Buren. During the 1830s, nearly half of the members of the Oneida Nation were loaded onto Erie Canal boats and transported to Buffalo where they boarded lake vessels bound for Green Bay, Wisconsin.

"The Richmond Aqueduct: Now and Then" is a 7- by 16-foot mural painted by artist Dawn Jordan and owned by the Montezuma Historical Society. It depicts the Richmond Aqueduct in Montezuma, Cayuga County. The mural is based on a historic photograph of the aqueduct, which was built in 1849 to carry the waters of the enlarged Erie Canal over the Seneca River and remained in use through 1917. It also depicts the remains of the aqueduct as they exist today and which can be seen along the Seneca River/Barge Canal in the canal-themed Montezuma Heritage Park. The mural won the Viewers' Choice Award during the 2016 Global Mural Conference.

Additional information about the exhibit can be found online at [www.ogs.ny.gov](http://www.ogs.ny.gov).

###