



MAIL CALL

CHAIRMAN STEVE STERN

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Issue 001

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A Message From Our Chairman

It has been my privilege to work closely with and for the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation. I look forward to meeting with our veterans from across New York State, and as Chairman I remain committed to ensuring that our veterans across New York State always receive the recognition, support, and services that they deserve.



Contact Chairman Stern

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Assemblyman Steve Stern with the American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Important Information from Chairman Stern

Veterans Crisis Hotline	988, Press 1
NYS Veterans Benefits Advisor.....	1-888-838-7697
VA Health Benefits Hotline.....	877-222-VETS
PACT Act Assistance.....	800-698-2411
VA Healthcare-Related Fraud, VHA Office of Integrity and Compliance Helpline.....	1-866-842-4357
VA Benefits Fraud Helpline.....	1-800-827-1000
Support for VGLI program, SGLI program, and FSGLI Claims.....	800-419-1473
Support for VA-Life, S-DVI, and VMLI.....	800-669-8477
Assistance with Education Benefits.....	888-442-4551

Schedule an online consultation with a NYS Veterans Services Agency Benefits Advisor:
<https://veterans.ny.gov>

Find your local NYS Veterans Services Office: <https://veterans.ny.gov/office-locations>

Find your local NYS Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists:
<https://dol.ny.gov/services-veterans>

Property Tax Exemptions for Veterans:
<https://veterans.ny.gov/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>

Health and Disability Benefits for Families and Caregivers:
<https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/health-and-disability/>

Apply for a Veterans Status Designation on a NYS Photo ID:
<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/veteran-status-designation-on-a-photo-document>

Homes for Veterans Program: <https://veterans.ny.gov/homes-veterans-program>

Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Project

Founded in memory of Private First Class Joseph P. Dwyer, a combat medic in Iraq who struggled with PTSD, their mission is to advocate for safe, non-clinical environments where veterans can connect, share their experiences, and find healing through the support of their peers. This peer-driven approach helps veterans and their families navigate the challenges of civilian life, from mental health struggles to reintegration into their communities.



Connect with a Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Project near you
<https://www.josephpdwyerpeerproject.org/dwyer-counties>



Every second Thursday of the month, the Suffolk County Joseph P. Dwyer Project - Family Support and Education Series hosts a virtual presentation for veterans and families, featuring a new topic every session.

Join here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86829194414#success>

Meeting ID: 868 2919 4414

SUNY Campus Military-Connected Services

Prospective Students:

*Susan Dewan, Assistant Director for
Military and Veteran Recruitment*

518-445-4069

susan.dewan@suny.edu

Current Students

*Diana Pasterchick, SUNY Coordinator
of Veteran and Military Affairs*

diana.pasterchick@suny.edu

Find Your Local Campus Military-Connected Services Office Here

[https://www.suny.edu/attend/get-started/military-and-veteran-students/
campus-veterans-services-offices/](https://www.suny.edu/attend/get-started/military-and-veteran-students/campus-veterans-services-offices/)

Valentines for Veterans

with Countrywood Primary School, South Huntington, Long Island

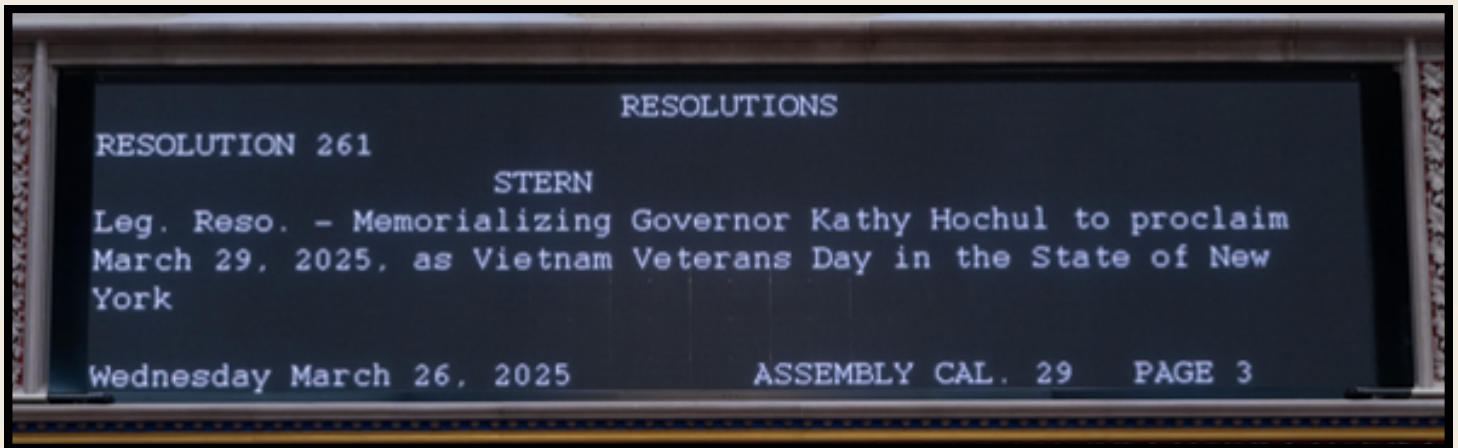
The Office of Assemblyman Steve Stern partnered with local second-grade classes at Countrywood Primary Center in South Huntington to create handmade Valentines for our veterans at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook.





VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

Commemorating 50 Years
Since the End of the War



Assemblyman Stern sponsored the resolution proclaiming March 29, 2025 as Vietnam Veterans Day in the State of New York.



Assemblyman Stern introducing Vietnam Veterans from across the State of New York on the floor of the Assembly.



Assemblyman Stern honoring Assembly Sergeant at Arms Wayne Jackson with Assemblymembers Slater, Manktelow, Hunter, and Maher, recognizing his service to our state and nation in the Vietnam War.



Assemblyman Stern presenting a proclamation to Marcelle Leis, Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, and the Vietnam Veterans of America, commemorating 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War, honoring our Vietnam Veterans and remembering the more than 58,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Veterans' Affairs Committee Updates

Bills That Have Passed the Veterans' Affairs Committee Year to Date, 2025:

A06264, STERN

Establishes members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Public Health Services (USPHS) as veterans under NYS law consistent with federal law.

A06579, STERN

Tax relief for the men and women who serve our nation - this legislation provides a property tax exemption for active service members whose military duty station is within the boundaries of New York State and has served in a combat zone anytime during the taxable year.

A2058, CUNNINGHAM

Requires the Women Veterans Coordinator of the Department of Veterans' Services to develop and implement a maternity care program for pregnant and postpartum veterans.

A2435, CRUZ

Regarding the definition of "intended recipients" of the Alex R. Jimenez New York Military Immigrant Family Program to specifically include spouses, parents, and children of a uniformed service member, veteran, or reserve component member as well as the next-of-kin of such service members and veterans requesting a grant of posthumous U.S. citizenship on their behalf.

A04751A, RAJKUMAR

Ensures that New York State and local veterans' service agencies include disabled veterans in employment assistance obligations.

A06538, SCHIAVONI

This bill provides that the previous Division of Veterans' Services will now be known as the Department of Veterans Services, a Cabinet-level NYS agency, consistently throughout state law.



With Joel Evans, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Department of Veterans' Services. Mr. Evans provided the Committee Members with updates on some of the latest developments with the agency at the February committee meeting.