

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore**

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**DATE:** July 30, 2015

## **Legislator Muratore and Colleagues Recognize Veterans Court Mentors**



*Photo captions: Left- Legislators Muratore (center), Browning (far left) and Stern (far right) with Suffolk County Veterans Court mentors. Right- Veterans Court mentor Ron Pacchiana (left) presents a coin to Legislator Tom Muratore (right), commemorating the five branches of the United States Armed Forces.*

**Selden, NY** – At the July 28, 2015 meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature in Hauppauge, Legislator Tom Muratore and his 17 colleagues presented proclamations to twelve volunteers who serve as Veterans Court Mentors.

Often times, men and women in the United States military endure high costs of service, which can result in alcohol and substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness and unemployment. The Veterans Court is a specialized part of the Suffolk County District and County Criminal Courts that provides a means to successfully help veterans affected by the impact of military service.

The role of Veterans Court mentor is to serve as a coach, guide, and advocate for those going through the program. The mentors themselves are required to be veterans who have an honorable discharge, and can commit to at least six months of participation. "These mentors are being recognized not only for their service to our country, but for their volunteer work in the Veterans Court," stated Legislator Muratore. "They partner alongside participants in the program to listen, support, assist and get these men and women back on track to readjust to civilian life. They become both friend and role model to these individuals, even after successful completion of Veterans Court. On behalf of the entire Suffolk County Legislature, it was my pleasure to recognize these men and women for their efforts."

The honorees are: Frederick Calise, Frank Carle, Jr., Francis D'Aversa, Daniel J. Eagan, Donald Howe, Adam Jankowski, Thomas Mack, Grace Mehl, Ron Pacchiana, Clarence F. Simpson, David Sinclair and Ralph Zanchelli.