

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

WILLIAM R. SPENCER
LEGISLATOR 18TH DISTRICT

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Dear Editor,

Last year, members of the American Legion Post 694 approached me with the idea of enacting a Suffolk County Law to protect the honor of our decorated veterans; mirroring the Federal Stolen Valor Act. They made a compelling case for why a local law was needed after witnessing individuals impersonating decorated veterans as a means to solicit funds.

I was surprised to learn that in Suffolk County such deceitful acts, tarnishing the accomplishments of brave men and women, were being committed for monetary gain. In response, I have sponsored a local law that will make it a misdemeanor in Suffolk County for any person to fraudulently market themselves as a decorated veteran while soliciting funds.

This local law will not only signal to potential offenders that such disgraceful actions will not be tolerated, but will expedite justice on the local level. I congratulate and thank the local veterans in my district for taking action on this issue. I am grateful that my colleagues have joined me in passing this bill to uphold the integrity of our decorated veterans and the country they call home.

Sincerely,

William R. Spencer, M.D.
Suffolk County Legislator
18th Legislative District