

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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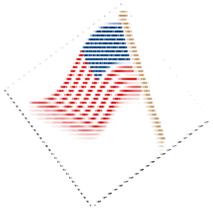
PRESS RELEASE

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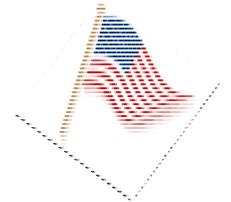
May 14, 2015



From Left to Right: Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Honoree Dorine Kenney, Congressman Steve Israel, Honoree Legislator Tom Barraga and Legislator William R. Spencer



AN OCCASION TO APPRECIATE OUR VETERANS!



Spencer, Israel, Bellone
Thank Hundreds of Our Nation's Finest

EAST NORTHPORT, NY – In an expression of deep appreciation and gratitude for their service and sacrifice, **Suffolk County Legislator William R. Spencer** hosted the **2015 Veterans Appreciation Breakfast!** The breakfast, generously donated by the owners of *The Larkfield*, Harry and George Mountanos, drew over 250 local veterans and was attended by **U.S. Congressman Steve Israel and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone**. Honorees, recognized for their services to our veterans, were Suffolk County Legislator Tom Barraga, a distinguished veteran, and Dorine Kenney, *Jacob's Light Foundation* founder and former Executive Director.

“Suffolk County is hard at work, making sure that our veterans’ needs are met and their honor is protected. The Legislature is focused on providing access to housing, employment and healthcare. Recently, we passed a local *Stolen Valor Act*, making it a crime for anyone to impersonate a decorated veteran while soliciting funds. We will continue expressing our appreciation and pride for being home to the largest population of veterans in New York State,” stated Legislator Spencer. “This breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to gather our vets and say; thank you!”

Other distinguished guests included Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern, Suffolk County Legislator Monica Martinez, Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta, Town of Huntington Councilman Eugene Cook, Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency Director Tom Ronayne, and Town of Huntington Veterans Affairs Director Carol Rocco.

Honoree, Legislator Tom Barraga, a former Major General, assisted in the establishment of a Wounded Warrior Unit for wounded Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He was also awarded the New York State Defense of Liberty Medal, the Conspicuous Service Medal, the Distinguished Citizen Medal, and the Special Recognition Award for his service to New York State and the Nation during the 9/11 Crisis.

“The veterans of this country are the real heroes,” said honoree Legislator Barraga. “The men and women who raised their right hand and took the oath, in essence, wrote a blank check to the ‘United States of America’ for an amount up to and including his or her life.”

Honoree, Dorine Kenney, the founder of *Jacob’s Light Foundation* spent over a decade packaging and sending over 635,000 pounds of items to support our active service members.

“It is an honor to celebrate and pay tribute to our veterans whose bravery and sacrifices have protected our freedoms for generations. I applaud Legislator Spencer for organizing this breakfast. I will continue to work with all Suffolk County officials and community leaders to support Long Island veterans and get them the benefits and care they deserve,” stated Congressman Israel.

To express the County’s ongoing appreciation for veterans, Legislator Spencer will host an event to raise the Suffolk County flag that was signed by attendees of the breakfast, at the Legislature Building in Hauppauge on Veterans Day. Suffolk County will continue supporting veterans, if you know someone that needs assistance please reach out to the Suffolk County Veterans Agency at **(631) 853-VETS** or **log on to <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/veterans/home.aspx>**.

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