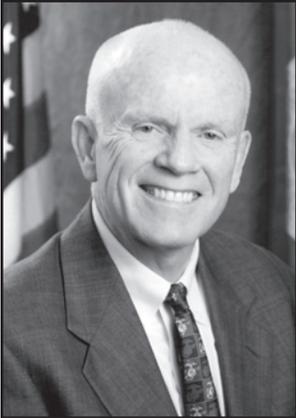


# COUNTY LEGISLATOR THOMAS F. BARRAGA

*Reports to the People*

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*11<sup>th</sup> District Office:*

• 187 Sunrise Highway • Suite C • West Islip, New York 11795 • (631) 854-4100

## I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



*I am the flag of the United States of America.  
My name is Old Glory.  
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.  
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.  
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.  
I stand guard with power in the world.  
Look up and see me.  
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.  
I stand for freedom.  
I am confident.  
I am arrogant.  
I am proud.*

*Continued on Page 2*

*When I am flown with my fellow banners,  
my head is a little higher,  
my color is a little truer.*

*I bow to no one!*

*I am recognized all over the world.*

*I am worshipped- I am saluted.*

*I am loved- I am feared.*

*I have fought in every battle  
of every war for more than 200 years.*

*I was flown at Valley Forge,  
Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.*

*I was there at San Juan Hill,  
the trenches of France in the*

*Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the  
beaches of Normandy. Guam, Okinawa,*

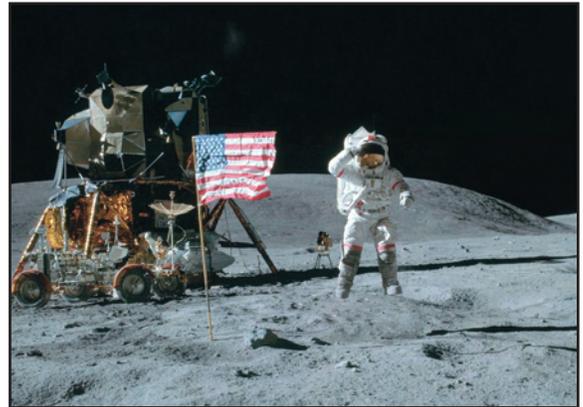
*Iwo Jima, Korea, Khe Sanh, Saigon and  
Vietnam know me.*

*I was there.*



*I am presently in the mountains of  
Afghanistan and the hot and dusty  
deserts of Iraq and wherever freedom is  
needed. I led my troops. I was dirty,  
battle worn and tired, but my Soldiers  
cheered me and I was proud. I have been  
burned, torn and trampled on the streets  
of countries I have helped set free. It does  
not hurt, for I am invincible. I have been*

*soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in  
the streets of my country. And when it's  
done by those whom I've served in battle-  
it hurts. But I shall overcome, for I am  
strong. I have slipped the bonds of Earth  
and stood watch over the uncharted  
frontiers of space from my vantage point  
on the moon. I have borne silent witness  
to all of America's finest hours.*



*But my finest hours are yet to come.  
When I am torn into strips and used  
as bandages for my wounded comrades  
on the battlefield, when I am flown at  
half-mast to honor my Soldier, or when  
I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving  
parent at the grave of their fallen son or  
daughter,*



***I am proud.***

## Making a Difference for Our Military

### *Barraga Co-Sponsors Legislation to Establish a Cold War Veteran Property Tax Exemption*

The Suffolk County Legislation recently passed Resolution #2097 to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans in defense of our nation by offering to all eligible veterans, the maximum property tax exemptions allowable under state law.

The maximum exemption is 15% of the assessed real value of the property and shall not exceed \$12,000.

In order to be eligible, veterans must have served under honorable conditions for more than 365 days in the United States Army,

Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard during the period from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

*Esquire Magazine, December 2007*

Former marine and local legislator Thomas F. Barraga was named as instrumental in writing a proposal with Lieutenant Colonel Tim Maxwell for a “medical rehabilitation platoon” to assist wounded warriors at the United States Marine Corps base located at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

## SPECIAL MEETING FOR CAREGIVERS

It is estimated that family caregivers in New York State provide \$20 billion worth of unpaid services to loved ones with dementia every year. A recent AARP study concluded that providing better supports for family caregivers is essential not only to the well-being of our health care system, but our economy as a whole.

Legislator Barraga will host an important seminar for those caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s or a related dementia. This 60-minute presentation will take place on April 30th at 9:45 a.m. at the District Office, located at 187 Sunrise Highway in West Islip. Breakfast will be served.

Julie Wexler, MPA, a Qualified Dementia Care Provider from **Day Haven Adult Services**, will present on “Aging, Alzheimer’s and Caregiving.” The presentation will distinguish between the normal signs of aging and problems related to dementia. Symptoms, stages and treatments of Alzheimer’s, as well as available resources in the community, will be addressed so that caregivers and their loved ones can live with safety, security and dignity. In addition, packets containing important information on Alzheimer’s and caregiving will be distributed. Please contact Legislator Barraga at 631-854-4100 to advise of your attendance.

# BARRAGA IN YOUR SCHOOLS



## *Guest Speaker in the Third Grade*

Recently, Legislator Barraga was a guest speaker in Mrs. Botz's third grade classroom at Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip. Topics of discussion included choosing the best candidate and casting a ballot.

## *Election Day in the Fourth Grade*

With Election Day just around the corner, Legislator Barraga took the time to oversee a student debate in Mr. Schmalenberger's class at Paul J. Bellew School in West Islip. The topic of discussion included picking the best candy, as opposed to the best candidate. It was a fun-filled day for all.



## *Barraga Speaks to Honor Students*

Legislator Barraga was a guest speaker in Mrs. Lupitano's seventh grade honor's class at Udall Road Middle School in West Islip. The session, which lasted approximately 90 minutes, included current civic and political affairs with a question and answer period. Topics of discussion focused on the future of the La Grange Inn, immigration and the upcoming presidential election.