

District 16 • SUMMER 2011

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COMMUNITY REPORT

from Suffolk County Legislator

STEVE STERN

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2011 Committee Assignments

Join Legislator Stern on Facebook:
LegislatorStern@gmail.com



Chairman:

Veterans & Seniors

Vice Chairman:

Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy

Vice Chairman:

Public Works & Transportation

Vice Chairman:

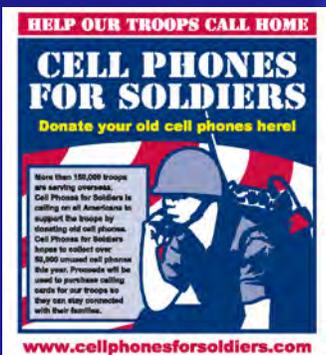
Ways & Means

Member:

Parks & Recreation

Legislator Stern Collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers”

Our office is collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers” to provide support for our troops and their families. “Cell Phones for Soldiers” recycles used cell phones and uses the proceeds to purchase pre-paid calling cards for our troops serving overseas.



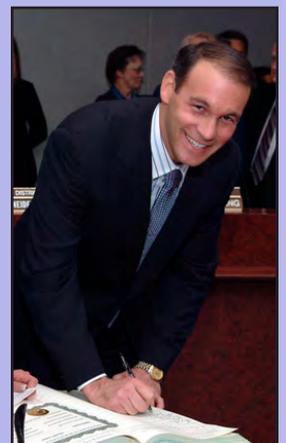
Please bring your used cell phones to our office: 1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY. For further information, please call (631)854-5100. Thank you for your support.

Dear Neighbors:

Your confidence and trust means a great deal to me and I promise to always work hard to meet the needs of our community. I understand that during these challenging times it is important to continue to hold the line on taxes while maintaining essential services and ensuring public safety. Please know that you have my strong personal commitment to do just that.

My staff, Deborah Harris, Mary Young, Bryan Galgano and I take great pride in being accessible, responsive and providing the highest level of constituent service. Feel free to stop by our district office, call, e-mail or write and we will be pleased to address your concerns.

Sincerely,



BE PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Meteorologists are predicting a busy hurricane season and many believe that Long Island is overdue for a serious storm. We have all witnessed the devastation a hurricane can cause and it is important not to be complacent. Below is a hurricane checklist and important information that will enable you to prepare your family for possible storm related needs.

- Have a plan to reach family members and have a meeting place.
- Plan an evacuation location.
- At least 1 gallon of water per day, per person, for 3-7 days.
- Food for at least 3-7 days, including non-perishable canned goods and a manual can opener.
- Formula for infants and needed nutritional supplements.
- Blankets and pillows packed in plastic bags.
- Prescription medications. It is advisable to have a separate list of all medications and names, phone numbers and addresses of physicians should you need additional medication.
- Flashlights & battery operated radios.
- Keep cell phone chargers dry & accessible.
- First aid kit.
- Toiletries.
- Cash.
- Important documents placed in water-proof sealed plastic bags.
- Tools.
- Make plans for your pets and secure their medical information.
- Make sure to fill the gas tanks of your vehicles. In the event of an extended power failure, gas stations may not be able to pump gas.
- The Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (F.R.E.S.) has established a Joint Emergency Evacuation Plan (J.E.E.P.) for persons with special needs. Individuals are encouraged to obtain a J.E.E.P. application by calling F.R.E.S. at (631) 852-4900.
- If you or a family member is dependent upon life-support equipment, contact LIPA at 1-(800) 490-0025 to register for their Critical Care Program.

Legislator Stern Reminds Residents to “Dump the Water”

Summer means mosquitoes and the threat of mosquito-borne illnesses such as West Nile Virus and encephalitis. Stagnant water is a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Be sure to dump any standing or pooled water to protect your family and neighbors from mosquitoes. Legislator Stern recently awarded students who entered posters in the Legislature’s “Dump the Water” contest. Here is the winner, designed by Valerie Freidman, Signal Hill Elementary School.



Legislator Steve Stern's Law to Ensure "Respect For Our Fallen Heroes" Passes Unanimously

I am proud to announce that my legislation to protect funerals in Suffolk County from protestors who seek to inflame and disrupt services passed the Suffolk County Legislature unanimously and has been signed into law. This legislation was made necessary because of protests nationwide by members of a radical fringe group which has disrupted both military and civilian funerals at churches and cemeteries with disrespectful and abusive signs and verbal assaults upon families grieving the loss of their loved ones.

As the Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee of the Legislature, it has been my privilege to work with and for our troops and their families. I am profoundly disturbed that legislation was required to ensure respect, dignity and compassion for our military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation and our way of life. This outrageous cruelty has no place in Suffolk County and I am proud to stand with our military, our veterans and their families to respect our fallen heroes and ensure dignity for all grieving families in Suffolk County.

The bill was signed in the presence of several Gold Star families and the Patriot Guard Riders, a group of veterans who provide protection for families at the funerals of their loved ones. The Patriot Guard Riders led a motorcycle procession to hand deliver the signed bill for filing with the County Clerk.

I thank my colleagues in the Legislature and the County Executive for joining me in one united voice to say to the families of our fallen and to all who mourn in Suffolk County that we will protect you and ensure that your loved ones can rest in peace.



Legislator Steve Stern's Silver Alert Safeguards Those with Special Needs

Last year, my groundbreaking first-in-the-state legislation created the "Silver Alert" program. Similar to an "Amber Alert," the "Silver Alert" notifies police, media and our community when a person with a cognitive disorder, such as Alzheimer's, is reported missing. I am pleased to announce that the "Silver Alert" program has been expanded by the Suffolk County Police Department to include those with special needs, such as Autism, developmental disabilities and severe mental illness. Parents, guardians, relatives and other caregivers can now register information with the Police Department to assist in the safe return of those with Special Needs should they become lost or wander away. Those registering for the "Silver Alert" can also request a "Silver Alert" Bracelet that contains a distinctive number and instructions that can assist first responders. To register, visit the Department website @ www.suffolkpd.org, by clicking on the Amber/Silver Alert icon on the homepage or by calling (631) 852-6983.

Legislator Steve Stern Educates Our Community About Driving Hazards

The summer season is a time for enjoying Long Island's spectacular beaches and spending time with friends and family. Unfortunately, the summer season is also the deadliest time on the roads for our young people and many of these accidents involve alcohol. To help raise awareness of this critical issue I have:



- Sponsored legislation naming the intersection of Commack Road and Vanderbilt Parkway "Glen Ciano Place" in memory and in honor of Suffolk County Police Office Glen Ciano, who was tragically killed in the line of duty by a drunk driver. I hope that the signs dedicated with the assistance of his family will serve as a reminder of the horrific and preventable consequences of drinking and driving.



- Welcomed the National "Act Out Loud" winners, Deer Park High School to the Suffolk County Legislature. Deer Park High School students finished first in the nation and won a \$10,000 prize for their high school as winners of the "Act Out Loud" program, sponsored by Allstate Insurance Company to educate students about the dangers of Distracted Driving. Congratulations to the students and their advisor, Sherry Deacon for their outstanding award-winning music video.



- Spoken at several High Schools throughout our community at pre-prom meetings to students and their parents about Suffolk County's Social Host law and about the dangers of under-age drinking and drunk driving.

E-Newsletter Saves Taxpayer Money

Once again, I have joined with my colleagues in the Legislature in voluntarily suspending the mailing of newsletters to constituents to save more than \$100,000 in taxpayer money over the next year. My newsletters will now be published electronically and can be accessed at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov>. If you would like to receive e-mail updates and future e-newsletters, please send your e-mail address to: steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov

Legislator Steve Stern Forms “Anti-Graffiti” Task Force

I am pleased to announce the creation of an “Anti-Graffiti Task Force,” comprised of high school students, to address the growing problem of graffiti in our community. The recent increase in graffiti is not only an eyesore, but a threat to our quality of life. It must be met with a swift response by both law enforcement and members of the community, so that those who commit these acts know that they will be caught and prosecuted and that their vandalism will not be tolerated. Students worked together with me, Huntington Councilwoman Susan A. Berland and local businesses and community volunteers to wash, scrape and paint their way to beautifying our community and send the important message that our young people care about the integrity of our neighborhoods and will actively fight to protect our quality of life. I thank everyone involved for their efforts. Working together, we can ensure that our community remains a great place to live, work and raise our families.



Legislator Steve Stern Urges Residents to Recover Unclaimed Funds

Did you know that Suffolk County residents are owed millions of dollars in unclaimed funds? Working with the Office of the State Comptroller, I recently held an unclaimed funds seminar to assist residents in recovering monies from old bank accounts, stocks and pensions. I am pleased to report that a number of our neighbors recovered funds. For information about locating unclaimed funds, please visit www.osc.state.ny.us



Legislator Steve Stern Joins with Congressman Steve Israel to Open New Veterans Court

As Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, it was my privilege to join with Congressman Steve Israel, the Hon. Madeleine Fitzgibbon, the Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, the Hon. H. Patrick Leis III, and Phillip Moschitta, Director of the Northport VA Medical Center, to dedicate Suffolk County’s new Veterans Court.



The Veterans Court is a judicially supervised program to treat veterans facing criminal charges with on-site support for potential problems such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and alcohol and substance abuse. Similar to drug treatment and mental health courts, counseling and mental health services are provided using a team approach, bringing together mental health, legal and support professionals, as well as “peer mentors” who have military service experience. Often the transition from military life to civilian life can be difficult. The Veterans Court will enable veterans who have entered the criminal court system to take responsibility for their actions, while receiving the care and support they need to successfully transition to civilian life. Thanks to Congressman Israel, Director Moschitta and the staff of the Northport VA, Judge Leis and the court system, for their innovative approach to assisting the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation.



Legislator Stern *In our community...*



Steve honored the “Best Babes,” a group of more than 60 residents of the Greens at Half Hollow in Melville, named for golf legend Babe Didrikson Zaharias, who raised more than \$123,000 for cancer research through a series of fund raising events.



Steve hosted a series of “Coffee with Steve” community meetings, where he met with residents about important local developments and about their concerns. Check our website for upcoming “Coffee with Steve” events throughout our community.



Steve hosted a “Shed the Meds” pharmaceutical collection event at the North Babylon Public Library. The “Shed the Meds” program collects expired and unused medications for proper disposal to protect our young people and our groundwater from contamination caused by improper disposal of drugs. Deputy Sheriff Susan DeSena assisted in collecting several dozen pounds of medications.



Steve honored Dr. Raymond Mascolo, D.D.S. of East Northport, for his extraordinary generosity to our veterans. Dr. Mascolo prepares and serves home cooked meals for homeless veterans at the Salvation Army Residence at the Northport V.A. and has also donated a computer lab and other items to provide for those veterans who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation. Thank you, Dr. Mascolo, for your dedication and commitment to our community.



Steve honored the Elwood-John H. Glenn Lady Knights- undefeated Suffolk County Class A Girls Basketball Champions for 2011. Congratulations to the Lady Knights and their coaches and manager on a remarkable season.



Photo by Steve Silverman

Steve honored Greenlawn firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician, John McKenna, as the “Volunteer Firefighter of the Year” for the 16th Legislative District. Mr. McKenna is a 38 year active member of the department and two-time “Rescue Responder of the Year.” Mr. McKenna is a highly respected member of the community, known for his compassion, good humor and love of all things Irish. Thank you, Mr. McKenna, for your lifelong service to our community.