

VETERANS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Veterans Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the at the Evans K. Griffing County Center in the Maxine Postal Legislative Auditorium, 300 Center Driver, Riverhead, New York on August 30, 2016.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Steve Stern, Chairperson
Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga
Leg. Lou D'Amaro
Leg. Leslie Kennedy
Leg. Monica Martinez

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Robert Calarco, 7th Legislative District
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Andrew Tarantowicz, Budget Review Office
Lisa Pinkard, Aide to Leg. Martinez
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Theresa Santoro, Aide to Leg. Anker
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications/PO
Seth Squicciarino, Aide to Leg. Hahn
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
John Marafino, County Executive's Office
Dave Schwartz, Newsday
Dennis Sullivan, New York State VFW Commander, recipient of proclamation
Ben Zwirn, Suffolk Community College
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

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THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:46 AM

CHAIRPERSON STERN:

Good morning and welcome to the Veterans Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. I ask everybody to please rise and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Barraga.

SALUTATION

Please remain standing and join us in a moment of silence as we keep all of our brave men and women fighting for our freedom overseas in our thoughts and prayers.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Again, thank you everybody for joining us this morning. As our first order of business, we have a special presentation. I will turn it over to Vice Chairwoman Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, I have here today New York State VFW Commander Dennis Sullivan. I want to just briefly talk about Dennis and some of the things that he's done, but just recently in July he was inducted as the Commander for the Veterans of Foreign War, Department of New York. What an honor, what an honor. Dennis has been dedicated to the VFW since 1984 when he joined the Centereach VFW Post 4927 where he served as Commander, Financial Officer and also Quartermaster.

Dennis served this country during the Vietnam war where he was a drug and alcohol counselor with the United States Army, HHC Company, Division Headquarters. And that's the 101st Airborne Division.

Since his service, he has been dedicated to caring for his fellow veterans and ensuring that they receive the resources and services that they need. Dennis has gone above and beyond to service his fellow veterans. After Superstorm Sandy, he visited each VFW Post that sustained damage following the storm and helped them open soup kitchens and distribute assistance to the VFW members.

Dennis has also served on the Veterans' Review Board for the Long Island Home Builders Care Development Corporation. The not-for-profit organization builds new homes for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a newly inducted commander, Dennis will focus on homeless veterans as they make up 17% of the adult homeless population. He plans to educate communities about the homeless veteran population and also advocate for legislation that will assist these veterans.

We thank Commander Sullivan for his continued service to all our veterans in New York State. Thank you. And it's my honor to present to you a proclamation for your outstanding service not only to our county but to our country. Thank you. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON STERN:

Okay, let's -- we do have an Introductory Resolution before us today. It is **IR 1752, Adopting Local Law (No. -2016, A Local Law) to amend Chapter 353 of the Suffolk County Code to authorize the County Department of Audit and Control to register nonprofit veterans organizations. (Co. Exec.)** This needs to be tabled for a public hearing. So I make that motion to table for purposes of a public hearing; second by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Any opposed?

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Any abstentions? **IR 1752 is tabled for public hearing. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Okay, there being no other business before the Committee, we are adjourned.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:06 AM