

**VETERANS AND SENIORS COMMITTEE**

**OF THE**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A regular meeting of the Veterans and Seniors Committee was held at the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium on Thursday, May 16, 2002 at 10:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator William Lindsay, Chairman  
Legislator Martin Haley, Vice-Chair  
Legislator Cameron Alden  
Legislator Andrew Crecca  
Legislator Lynne Nowick

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sean Clancy, Budget Review Office  
Ed Hogan, Legislative Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Terry Pearsall, Legislative Aide to Legislator Lindsay  
Tom Donovan, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna  
Bill Faulk, IR/County Executive's Office  
Art Lozeau, Veterans Service Agency  
Edward J. Kelly, American Legion  
Frank Belsito, American Legion Post No. 1941  
Maureen Porter, Officer for the Aging

**Minutes Taken By:**

Kimberly Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

*(The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.)*

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

I would like to call the Veterans and Seniors Committee to order and Legislator Haley will lead us in the Pledge.

*(Salutation)*

Okay. We have one card, Mr. Frank Belsito. Do you want to come up, Frank? You will lead off and finish up because we only have one card. And here is Legislator Crecca. We are just starting.

*(Legislator Crecca entered the meeting at 10:46 a.m.)*

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I appreciate you waiting. I apologize for my tardiness. Go ahead, Frank.

**MR. BELSITO:**

My name is Frank Belsito. I am the commander of the American Legion of Pearl Harbor Memorial Post No. 1941 in Port Jefferson. The reason I am here is to follow-up with the meeting that we had here last month. I really truly want to thank you for your attention that was given to this and I think your concern for the remembrance walk that we wanted to do was very sincere. I have to say that I am very disappointed in one of the Legislators for creating an issue that happened on the full legislative meeting. I think if this one Legislator didn't step out and bring maybe American Legion politics into this, I think we would have went on with this remembrance walk and it would have been very, very nice. I think it is nice when the people of Suffolk County can get up and say yes, we remember December 7, 1941 and we remember September 11, 2001. And that was the whole purpose.

I have been in touch with the Town of Brookhaven and told them that we are not going to be accepting their funding of \$5,000 because we canceled the event. I will not do something that has a cloud over it, but this issue has not been resolved. Marty Haley knows me for quite a few years and we have worked together on different projects. I apologize for the new Legislators and also to yourself for not really knowing me. I think I have been involved with the American Legion for the past 24 years. I have a good record with the American Legion. I have a good record in the County.

If you look at the Armed Forces Plaza and you look at the Korean monuments there, I was the Chairperson for that when Rose Caracappa was the Chair of the Veterans Committee. I am very proud when I look at those monuments. I am very proud when I look at my name and see it over there. I think anybody would, just like with the World War II monuments or the Women's monument. But by the same token I don't like a cloud being brought over my name. Like I said, this is not finished and a door was opened and I will not walk away from that door being open. I think that when something is made public like that, and especially with my name, I won't end there. It is like Pearl Harbor was attacked and September 11<sup>th</sup> was attacked, I was attacked at the last full legislative meeting. When I was a kid my dad said to me three things. He never wanted to be called up to school, he never wanted a cop to bring me home, and don't bring any shame on our family name. And I think at the last meeting of the full Legislature some shame was brought on our family name, and I won't tolerate that.

But once again, when I had the meeting with you, Legislator Lindsay, at your office, you seemed very, very enthused about the whole project and I appreciate that. I know the other two Legislators that were here were also. And also the person that sort of opened up the door for the Legion to come down here and create the issue that they created. Some comments were made, I am glad it is all written, because we are going to use that. If the Legion had any problems with me, believe me, within the Legion we have our own little rules and they never acted on any of their rules.

So with that, I am just here to say thank you because of your consideration and also in the back of my mind, and I mentioned it to Supervisor LaValle, that next year we will probably try and do it again, and we will use Armed Forces Plaza. We will come here and ask permission, of course. But I think it is a shame when something so important as remembering people that were killed on December 7<sup>th</sup> or September 11<sup>th</sup>, that somebody has to put a cloud over it, and I thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Haley.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Frank has always done a very good job in the past, and I will vouch for that, Frank. But I just want you to know that we all realized that it was politics within your organization. And we are no different than anybody else. Sometimes it is like you don't want to get in the middle of a husband and wife fight, you know, so we almost found ourselves in that position. But there is no doubt in our minds that your intent was nothing but good and I am sure we will be more than willing to work with you next year.

**MR. BELSITO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Is there anybody else? Thank you, Frank.

**MR. BELSITO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. We don't have any other cards. Does anybody else want to address the committee? Art, do you have anything for us?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

No, sir, I don't.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Do you want to talk about the event on Saturday at all?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Sure. Art Lozeau, the Director of Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency. On Saturday is the Salute to World War II Veterans. It is at Armed Forces Plaza at 11 o'clock. The ceremony is going to include wreath presentations by 11 veterans organizations and also a firing detail, etceteras. If it is inclement weather, we will go inside the lobby of the Dennison Building and we will make that determination that morning.

There are other ceremonies upcoming. The Salute to Women Veterans, that is on 8 June at 11 a.m., same place, Armed Forces Plaza. Then the Korean War Veterans Ceremony is on June 25<sup>th</sup>, which is a Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. with a rain date of the next day at the same time. That is the ceremony that commemorates the beginning of the Korean War. It is our 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of that.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

What was the date of those events again?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

This Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, is the salute to World War II Veterans. Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, is the salute to women veterans –

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

What time is that?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

That is 11 a.m.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Art, you will send a notice to all of us here.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Right. You all have invite letters, except you have not yet received the one for the Korean's. I have sent it, I assume it is in the mail. The Korean one is on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The rain date for the Korean one, because it is a large barbecue is on the next day, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Just for the edification of the Legislators, we are in session on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Maybe we can have our dinner break and go over and pay tribute to the Korean War Veterans.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

It is a very nice ceremony. I have attended it in the past, and it is something we really should attend, and we will ask the Presiding Officer if he can do that, Bill.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Six o'clock would fit in perfect.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you, Art. Art, we have a question. I'm sorry.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Just one question. Saturday it starts at 11. Is it promptly at 11?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Oh, we start at 11. Usually – the attendees are going to be right now the County Executive and Congressman Grucci is coming. We haven't heard from Congressman Isreal yet, but we might give a few minutes there, but it is not something that we would all – although I will have to tell you that, in fact, we were talking about it this morning, if the weather is iffy, which it is probably going to be, we might just hold off a little bit to see if it is going to break. But once we are set up, we go at 11. So, that is a long way to say almost always it starts right at 11.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

You can call me. I am very good with the weather.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

I am watching a lot of reports.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. If there is no one else that wants to address – I'm sorry, please come forward.

**MS. PORTER:**

I am Maureen Porter. I am from the Suffolk County Office for the Aging. I just wanted to remind you all that today we are having our annual senior celebration luncheon at Villa Lombardi's. There are 700 seniors there right now and vendors, and there will be a luncheon at noon and presentations of some awards. So I am hoping you can fit it into your day.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Maureen, a lot of us won't be able to attend because of committee schedules today. I stopped by already to have a cup of coffee and talk with Holly and some of the folks. I guess you drew the short straw, they left you behind.

**MS. PORTER:**

Somebody has to stay back in the office.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you.

**MS. PORTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

If there is no one else, let's go to the agenda. The first one, I believe, is a tabled resolution, am I correct, 1232-02.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **1243-02 Amending the 2002 Capital Program and budget and appropriating Funds for the purpose of construction of a War Dog Memorial at the H. Lee Dennison Building.**

I apologize about some confusion with this. I asked that it be tabled so that it would go before the Armed Forces Plaza Planning Committee, which I thought still existed, but I found out was abolished. So, the committee doesn't exist anymore. It now – Art, what is Joe Caracappa's committee called? There is another committee that has been implemented to approve memorials at all County parks, not just Armed Forces Plaza.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

The committee was established I believe in September. I don't have the resolution here, but it is a siting committee. They have met on this war dog memorial proposal. But that is the one that is the governing committee.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

And they approved it.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

They discussed it and I am not sure if it was approved in the sense of this is where it is going to go. I think they are looking at alternatives on it.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

So they haven't released it yet. Do you know? You don't know.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

I haven't seen anything on it, no.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Do you know the purpose of that committee is – they are concerned about moving the plaza should they widen or do work on the bypass?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

I don't think so, Marty, and correct me if I am wrong, Art. The original Armed Forces Plaza Committee was set up to plan different monuments for that area over there, and I guess once it has been built, initially it has been abolished in favor of this other committee that will oversee all monuments of any kind.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Why don't we see if Counsel is in. He probably knows exactly what we have to do.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I thought the last committee meeting they had said that that committee had already met on this and I thought they approved it. That is not your understanding, Art?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You are on the committee, right, Art?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

No, I am not.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

You are not.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Not on that siting committee, no. There is a member of the County Executive that is on there. They met and discussed the monument, but there was some discussion about where to put it in the context of dogs that were used for search, for instance, in the World Trade Center as opposed to dogs used in a war. I think there was a fair amount of discussion on that, that there was no resolution as to where it would be placed, was my understanding. But I wasn't at the meeting so I can't say with any certainty what it is.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. My trusty Aide has just pointed out to me minutes of the siting committee and the committee did approve the concept of it, but did not – the final siting will be contingent on the scope and design of the memorial. They didn't approve the final siting.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

That shouldn't preclude us from approving it, right?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

That is up to the committee. Marty, I will be truthful with you and honest. I don't have a problem with the memorial itself. I have some concerns about placing it at Armed Forces Plaza. I don't want to offend anybody. I know we have a huge number of Vietnam Vets in our community and we still don't have a memorial to them.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Well, there is a Suffolk County Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Bald Hill. That is Suffolk County's memorial. But we don't have a Vietnam monument, symbol, at Armed Forces Plaza. But when the discussion came about the Vietnam memorial for Suffolk County, there was large competition, discussion and so forth, and came up with that beautiful

monument at Bald Hill. But that is the Suffolk County one and that is where the Vietnam Veterans wanted it, placed to overlook Long Island.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Crecca.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I know I have said it to the committee before, and I have had preliminary discussions with Richie {Kitzen} over at VVA, too, about the siting of a Vietnam Memorial at Armed Forces Plaza so that that war could be represented. It was a very informal discussion that had to be followed up with more formal discussion, but they seemed – Richie's impression seemed to be that they would be in favor of that. I know in the past there was concern, they felt that it should be at Bald Hill, and some in the past felt that it was the only place it should be, but I don't think that is the thinking out there now. But I did want to explore that more.

There were some – before Art took the Director's spot, I had some preliminary discussions with Bob Smith also about the possibility of siting a Vietnam Memorial there. That is something I would like to explore and the committee to explore also.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

For clarification, the business about the Armed Forces Master Planning Committee. That was established really for the sole purpose of a World War II monument because of the road widening. It was thought that that committee had some say in other things, but it isn't. The one say in the placement of monuments and so forth. That was only for the World War II monument. That was its sole function.

The one that Legislator Caracappa chairs on the siting committee established last fall does these type of things, and that has to go before them. Now, whether the Vietnam Veterans of America want a presence at Armed Forces Plaza, I have no idea.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

And I am not representing that. I just had preliminary discussions with Richie {Kitzen}.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

In our rush to do the right thing we certainly don't want to offend anybody along the way. Legislator Haley.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

May I suggest, Mr. Chairman, if you could send a note from this committee to Joe Caracappa asking that they give us their feelings on 1243-02, and at the same time perhaps they would give us their considerations on the Vietnam Veterans memorial, too, for the plaza. I would rather have all input from them before I vote on anything.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

Just so you know, Marty, what my thinking was, and I would like to get the committee's input on it, was to draft legislation. I am not a big task force person, but I was thinking I would like to put together a little task force with the President of the VVA, somebody from the County Executive's Office, you know, Art, somebody from the Legislature, to determine if (a), there should be a Vietnam Memorial at Arms Forces Plaza, and (b), come up with a concept of what we would want there.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Isn't that the purpose of that committee now? I mean, all you need to do is just ask them to consider it.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Why don't I – and, Legislator Haley, you know, I think your motion is probably appropriate, but let me read the minutes of the siting committee and maybe it will clarify just where they are with the whole thing. I apologize. I should have had copies made of this, but it was on a pile of stuff.

"This concerns IR 1243-02, amending the 2002 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating funds for construction of war dog memorial at the H. Lee Dennison Building, sponsored by Suffolk County Legislator Fred Towle, to be built at the H. Lee Dennison Building. The review committee has determined the following with relation to IR 1243-02. One. That the dogs have played an important role in conflict wars and law enforcement functions dating back past

World War I. Two. That a memorial should be planned to honor the efforts of canines and the duty they perform. Three. That this memorial should be sited on the grounds of the H. Lee Dennison Building. And four, that a final siting will be contingent on the scope and design of the memorial.

The Review Committee for County Siting of Memorials and the Symbols committee met on April 22, 2002. For the reasons mentioned, the Review Committee voted on the following. That a war dog memorial be sited on the grounds of the H. Lee Dennison Building, and that the final location will be contingent upon the scope and design of this memorial. The motion was approved and was made by Eric Kopp, seconded by Legislator Caracappa. The vote was 5-0.”

Would you like to know who is on the committee? It is Legislator Caracappa, Eric Kopp, Ralph Barkowski, who is the landscape architect for the Department of Public Works, Harry Withers, who is the Deputy Director of the Planning Department, and Paulette {Bartunek}, the Aging Director of the Human Rights Commission.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

You know, based on that I would say let’s move this out. Obviously the final siting, the exact location of that on those grounds, would certainly be something that would be the siting committee’s jurisdiction. I will make the motion, Mr. Chairman.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

That still leaves open the question of what other monuments would be appropriate and what other space do we have. I don’t know if there is an overall plan, and if we need an overall plan before we go and vote on just an individual thing like this. Because if this ends up the size to take up all the remaining space there, then we are going to preclude ever putting – we could preclude putting a Vietnam Memorial in there or some other type of – maybe a memorial to even Desert Storm or what is going on right now. I am not sure that – Legislator Crecca’s first suggestion to put together a more inclusive type of group that would do an overall plan for the whole area, the remaining space that we do have, I am not sure that that is not a bad idea.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Art, do you know, is there are master plan for Armed Forces Plaza?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

No, there is not a master plan. They have what was established for the Korean and the Women. There is area out there for future monuments, but nobody has sat down and said this is going to go here, these are possibles, etceteras, and put a relative value. So the short answer to your question, no master plan that identifies future monuments.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. And of course the other question is that the offset for this comes out of the County Clerk’s budget, which is an offset for equipment. I am not sure whether the equipment was cancelled or it is going to be placed in next year’s budget or not.

**MR. CLANCY:**

I spoke with the County Clerk regarding this and there is actually another resolution that also uses this as an offset. And the remaining 75,000 will be used for the equipment, which he said should be sufficient.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Should be sufficient. Okay.

**MR. CLANCY:**

And whatever he doesn’t have he said he is going to make up with operating funds.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. So we wouldn’t be replicating these funds next year.

**MR. CLANCY:**

According to that conversation, no.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. I have a motion by Legislator Crecca to approve this resolution. Second by Legislator Haley. All in favor?

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Aren't you going to do the other thing?

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I am.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Then how can you move it out?

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I think also that the final siting hasn't been approved yet. This is saying that we agree with the idea of the memorial. This is saying that we agree to spend \$50,000 towards building this memorial. It doesn't say where it is going to go on the Dennison Building grounds. I mean, I understand your point. I am not arguing with you, Cameron.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

It would make sense that, you know, you put your resolution in that will establish a work group or whatever you want to call it that will come up with a master plan, and then see where this fits in and other – because you are going to have other veterans organizations that are going to come forward and say this is important, that is important. You know, you have got Desert Storm, you have what is going on right now.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

My bill was not -- I think you bring up a very good point. My bill was strictly focusing on a Vietnam Memorial at Armed Forces Plaza, but I think I should ask – I should expand the legislation a little bit to include the committee to make some recommendations –

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I have a suggestion. I would go along with tabling this for a short period of time until Andrew puts something like that in, where we can get a more inclusive plan. There is a limited amount of space out there, too. It is not unlimited.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

We can let it go and have a conversation with Legislator Caracappa next Tuesday on the floor concerning it. We can always table at that point. I am only interested in moving stuff out. But it is up to the Chairman. It doesn't matter to me if it is tabled for another couple of weeks.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I am going to defer to the Chairman on this.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

I don't have a problem with it.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

My point is that eventually it is going to be this committee working with if it is a work group or if it is a group of veterans organizations and planners. Then it is going to be this group that really has to do that type of work first.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

I withdraw my motion.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

The Chair will make a motion to table this pending a report from Legislator Caracappa on the siting committee.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Is everybody in favor of that? Okay. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

**1296-02 Authorizing conveyance of parcel to Suffolk County United Veterans, Town of Brookhaven (Section 72-h, General Municipal Law.)**

**MR. PEARSALL:**

Mr. Chairman, the Town of Brookhaven has not passed a resolution as yet.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

We have a motion to table and a second. All in favor? **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

**1569-02 Authorizing appropriation for Memorial Day Observance at Pinelawn National Cemetery.**

I think the amount here is \$300. I think in order to meet the tight schedule we would probably have to ask for a CN for the \$300. It is for flags, right?

**MR. PEARSALL:**

It doesn't specify, but to defray expenses.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Do we have a motion?

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I will make a motion.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second. All in favor? And we will put it on the consent calendar. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

Okay. That is all the business that I have. Wait a minute, what do we have here. Art has kindly put into our packet a map of the widening of 347 and how it is going to affect Armed Forces Plaza. Do you want to talk about this at all, Art?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

The current plan from the Department of Transportation in New York State is to come south 13 feet on the widening of the road. This is the redo from the original one many years ago that literally went through Armed Forces Plaza. But there was much objection to the road widening. It had to do with 347 and other areas up there. But for our specific purposes I had contacted the individual, Mr. {Treadwell} I believe his name is, and he faxed that to me. And so their current plan is for 13 feet south.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

What would be the dimension of the start of Armed Forces Plaza off of the expansion? How much frontage would we wind up with there?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Well, I went out and measured it from the tip of the plaza with the 13 feet coming south. I think you end up with about 95 feet from the tip of the diagonal or diamond I guess you would say, to the new curb. That is about 90 some-odd feet.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. So we have plenty of room.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Well, yes.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

And just understand, I have been working a lot on the 347 project dealing with the State, too. Art is right, but that is still not a final plan. It is their final draft plan, let's put it that way. It goes into development and design again, now, for fine tuning changes, and then it still has to get approved. And this project still isn't really funded. So we are talking, just so everyone is aware, we are talking about the earliest they would get, I was told, to that area of the project, because they are going to start it further out east and work their way west, we are looking at like 2006 at their earliest. But, yes, the plan was scaled back and it is not anticipated that they are going to go deep into that area.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Just an observation. By bringing the Plaza closer to the highway, it will accentuate the importance of it as commuters travel by every day. Not that that is the purpose.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

One thing the 13 feet – what taking away the 13 feet does is it takes all those trees out. If I recall, measuring it there is two trees left. One of them is pretty old. There would be no tree barrier there. And I believe that distance is about 85 feet now that I think about it. The Korean monument and the Women's monument is a square of 30 feet on the side, so however you want to position something between the tip of the plaza to the new curb, you have got 85 feet or so to work with.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Does anybody have anything else? Yes, Frank.

**MR. BELSITO:**

Is it possible just to talk about one of these resolutions?

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Does anybody have a problem with Frank – come on up, Frank.

**MR. BELSITO:**

I was not aware that there was appropriations made for Pinelawn, which is really Long Island National Cemetery. I am the Chair at Calverton National Cemetery. Now, I am just curious as to the appropriations that are given to Long Island National, which everybody calls Pinelawn. How do we go about maybe getting something for Calverton? I mean, Calverton is destined to be the largest national cemetery in the country. Right now it is number one as far as land space and number two, it will be the most – it will have the most interred in the country. It is a beautiful cemetery. I am just very concerned. And if something is done for Long Island National, how can we say that we can't do something for Calverton? I would like to know how to go about it.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Haley is going to answer that question.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

What specifically do you need at Calverton?

**MR. BELSITO:**

Well, I am just curious as to – I heard before somebody questioned is this for flags. Each cemetery is given appropriations from the VA to cover the cost of the flags.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

There is no specifics. This is just defray costs and there is a committee of veteran organizations that will be determined and they have to, you know, describe how they are going to spend that within 30 days or let us know within 30 days after the observance of such a day. So I am just curious, because obviously there is a need somewhere. So if you identify a need as something for us to look at, because they get 300 doesn't mean somebody else gets 300. You know, obviously somebody identified some sort of a need. And what we are always curious about, especially out in Calverton, is making sure that we have the necessary assistance in participating. You know, we get the kids to put the flags on and any other things that are important. So if you have something specific that you think you need at Calverton, then just let us know. Let me know and we will see what we can do.

**MR. BELSITO:**

Is there any direction that maybe you could say to me that this is the reason why Long Island National gets this here money? Is it for – it says for Memorial Day. Now, I don't know if they are referring to when they decorate the graves out there or is it for the Memorial Day service.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

It is not specific.

**MR. PEARSALL:**

I believe this was done by Charter Law before Calverton existed and that is why the amount is also so insignificant.

**MR. BELSITO:**

Well, all I am saying is that if there was an opportunity for us to get some help at Calverton – but I would like to know just why Long Island is getting it.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Through the Chair. Art, would your department have any record of last year's expenditures?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

For all of the veterans contracts we run those. I can find out if one was –

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Just give us some idea, you know, like maybe at the next meeting or whatever, what the \$300 went for last year.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

The wording, if I read the resolution, it is \$300 to give to a veterans organization for the conduct of the ceremonies. It is in the wording of the resolution. I am assuming that that would come through my office as a member item for contracts.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

If you could take a look.

**MR. LOZEAU:**

I will take a look and get back to you.

**MR. BELSITO:**

See, at Calverton we have two committees. We have the flag committee, which I am Chairman of, and then we have the Memorial Committee. So this here way, like I said, I just want to know which way to direct this, whether it would be the memorial committee or our committee.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

We have administrative code that was established a long time ago that provides for the opportunity to give monies to Long Island National Cemetery and Pinelawn that predated Calverton. So, we will investigate this. I would have a conversation, perhaps with Joe sitting next to you, to see exactly how that has been worked over the recent years. If that is the case, then we would just have to change the code to include Calverton, if there is in fact a need. But you have to help us with establishing a need.

**MR. BELSITO:**

You can always find a need.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

You come to me, you are very specific with what you want to do. I think that that is important. I mean, we are not just simply going to say because one group gets it, it automatically goes to the other one.

**MR. BELSITO:**

That's why I questioned it. And the only thing that I would like to bring out is that when we do decorate the graves we do have 5,000 volunteers that come out there –

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

We know exactly what you are doing out there. But have a discussion. Joe has got to do a little more homework to

see what has happened in the past. Make sure you get his number, have a discussion, and Joe can come back to us, perhaps, with some thoughts afterwards.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Do you mean Art?

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Art. I am calling him Joe. I am sorry. Sorry, Art.

**MR. BELSITO:**

It is all right. I understood. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Is there any other business before the committee? A motion to adjourn is in order.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Motion to adjourn.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

Second.

*(The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.)*

{ } Denotes Spelled Phonetically