

**VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE  
of the  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Veterans & Seniors Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **April 10, 2003**.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator William J. Lindsay - Chairman

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**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature

Terrence Pearsall - Aide to Legislator Lindsay

Art Lozeau - Director, Veterans Service Agency

Maureen Porta - Office of the Aging

Meghan O'Reilly - Presiding Officer's Office

Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office

Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive's Office, Budget

Dorine Kenney

All other Interested Parties

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**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Ana Grande- Court Stenographer

**(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:35 A.M.)**

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We have a problem this morning in that we are not going to have a quorum for the Seniors and Veterans. So what we're going to do is we'll open the meeting and we have one card, someone that wants to testify, and we'll take any reports from both Veterans and Seniors for the record, but we won't be able to vote on any business today. So with that, if we could rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**(SALUTATION)****CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

While we're standing, maybe we can remain standing for a moment of silence for all our people that are in harm's way, that have lost their lives and are in danger at the moment, that we can say a little prayer in our own words to bring them home quickly and safely.

**(MOMENT OF SILENCE)****CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you. We have one card, Dorine Kenney. Come on up. You could sit at the table there or you could stand at the podium, where ever you like.

**MS. KENNEY:**

Actually, somebody directed me here to this meeting. I just wanted to inform everybody here that I'm running a support group for families of U.S. military and coalition and I was hoping to get ideas or support for that meeting and just let people know, that's why I came.

I also have people calling me, they're collecting funds that they want to give to families who have soldiers over there to help pay the bills and, of course, people that want to donate goods to send in boxes to the soldiers.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Art Lozeau, if you raise your hand, Art, he is our Director of Veterans Affairs. Maybe you could chat with Art after the meeting for a little while and if there's a way that the County can assist you in your effort, you know, Art would be the guy that would be able to help out.

**MS. KENNEY:**

Okay. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you. Do you want to come up, Art? Do you have anything?

**MR. LOZEAU:**

Actually, I have nothing.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Do you want to come up? Holly is out today with a sick child at home.

**MS. PORTA:**

Good morning. I'm Maureen Porta from Office for Aging representing Holly Rhodes-Teague. I just have two things I'd like to inform the Committee. One is that we have our Seniors Celebration, our annual luncheon in honor of Older Americans Month. It will be held on Thursday, May 15th, at Villa Lombardi's.

And secondly, the Home Energy Assistance Program will be closing down. The last date to do mail-in applications for seniors sixty and over is April 21st. The HEAP Emergency Program will close down on Friday, May 2nd. The Burner Repair and Furnace Replacement Program remains open until September 30th.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Did we see an acceleration in applications for that program this year because of the high oil prices?

**MS. PORTA:**

Not really, because of income eligibility. I mean we always see an increase because the income eligibility goes up, but not -- we don't, Aging does not handle the emergency component, so possibly at Social Services there was an increase in emergency applications, but not significant on the mail-ins from seniors. They hold steady at about four thousand a year.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MS. PORTA:**

Thank you. And Tim Edwards is here, he's our nominee for the Advisory Board.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Come on up, Tim.

**MS. PORTA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Just have a seat. Maybe you could give us your name, address.

**MR. EDWARDS:**

Sure. My name is Tim Edwards. I work for Fifty-plus Senior News out of Bellport, New York. I live in Hampton Bays. I've been a resident there for about seven years.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. And you are going to -- you're applying to be part of our Advisory Committee?

**MR. EDWARDS:**

That is correct.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

And how long have you been working with seniors?

**MR. EDWARDS:**

I've been working with seniors through Senior News for ten years.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Very good. Very good. Is there any particular component that you like to work on?

**MR. EDWARDS:**

Well, I think kind of going hand and hand with the newspaper, we really cover a very wide range of issues, so there's really no issue that stands out. I just enjoy covering the many topics.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

What would you think is the number one problem that seniors face in Suffolk County?

**MR. EDWARDS:**

I think that there are two actually that stand out, and that's prescription drugs and housing.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Okay. I don't have anything else and I don't have anybody else on my Committee to ask you anything else, so thank you very much for coming down, I appreciate it.

**MR. EDWARDS:**

You're very welcome. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

If the Stenographer could note that Legislator Crecca had an excused absence this morning. Is there anyone else that would like to address this abbreviated Committee? If not, we stand adjourned.

**(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:40 A.M.)**

**{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY**