

PRESS RELEASE FROM
PRESIDING OFFICER DUWAYNE GREGORY



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Tag, You're It! Relay Team Of Legislators Completes Suffolk Marathon

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. – Showing that you can always go the distance when you work together, nine Suffolk County legislators ran as a relay team on Sunday in the first Suffolk County Marathon, the net proceeds of which will help to expand and enhance services for veterans in Suffolk County.

The legislators passed a baton from one runner to the next on the 26.2-mile course spanning Suffolk's south shore. Fifth District Legislator **Kara Hahn** (Port Jefferson) and 10th District Legislator **Tom Cilmi** (East Islip) were the first legislators out of the box, running the first 4 miles of the course together. Legislator Hahn then carried the baton through mile 12, where Majority Leader **Rob Calarco** (Patchogue) joined her for another mile. Legislator Hahn ended her journey shortly after mile 13 to complete a personal triumph, her first half-marathon.

Finishing up the second half of the marathon for the relay team, Majority Leader Calarco passed the baton to 2nd District Legislator **Jay Schneiderman** (Sag Harbor), who passed it to Presiding Officer **DuWayne Gregory** (Amityville). Gregory handed it off to 8th District Legislator **William J. Lindsay** (Holbrook), who passed it to 18th District Legislator **William Spencer** (Centerport), who gave it to 9th District Legislator **Monica Martinez** (Brentwood). Minority Leader **Kevin McCaffrey** (Lindenhurst) finished strong for the relay team, crossing the finish line 5 hours and 5 minutes after the marathon's start.

“Participating in this event as part of a bi-partisan legislators’ relay team with thousands of other race participants was exhilarating. It felt so great to be part of a team effort while also raising awareness about our veterans,” Legislator Hahn said. “Each leg of the race was important – no matter how small. I was there at the finish line when my teammate crossed holding the baton that had passed from hand to hand. I felt an enormous amount of accomplishment not just for my own 13.1 miles, but for the entire team’s effort.”

About 3,200 runners signed up for the inaugural Suffolk County Marathon and Half-Marathon, organized by County Executive Steve Bellone. The courses began and ended at Heckscher State Park, with the half-marathon course taking runners through East Islip and Oakdale, and the full marathon continuing through Sayville, Bayport-Blue Point and Patchogue.

“It just goes to show that we can always do greater things by working as a team than we can do as individuals,” said Presiding Officer Gregory. “I want to thank County Executive Steve Bellone, his team, and all the volunteers and sponsors who made this great event possible. The real win here is that we raised a ton of funding to help our county’s veterans.”

Attached Photo: Legislator Jay Schneiderman passes the baton to Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory at mile 16 of the Suffolk County Marathon.

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