

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN MARKS ‘EFFECTIVE END’ OF VETERANS HOMELESSNESS ON LONG ISLAND**

*Author of the “Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act” joins with Advocates and Elected Officials*



*Legislator Steve Stern joined by Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Tom Ronayne, Director, Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency and the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless*

**HUNTINGTON, NY** –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16<sup>th</sup> LD, joined with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, Tom Ronayne, Director, Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, Greta Guarton, Long Island Coalition for the Homeless and veterans advocates from HUD and the VA to mark the declaration by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness of the effective end of veterans homelessness on Long Island.

Working with partners in government at the Federal, State and Local Levels, including the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), not-for profit groups including the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Concern for Independent Living, United

Veterans Beacon House and veterans and their families, this initiative has enabled over 1,000 formerly homeless veterans to have a place to call home.

Legislator Stern authored the ***“Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act,”*** a landmark legislative initiative that created access to critically needed services, protect veterans and their families from housing discrimination, and transfer tax defaulted properties to not-for-profit organizations to be rehabilitated for safe, affordable housing for veterans and their families and to ensure that our veterans receive needed services.

“As Chairman of the Veterans Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature, and as the author of the ***‘Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act,’*** I am especially honored to mark today’s announcement that working together, across party lines, at all levels of government and with advocates and veterans themselves, Long Island has effectively ended veterans’ homelessness,” Legislator Stern said. “This is an extraordinary accomplishment, one that reflects the dedication and tireless work of agencies such as the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, Supportive Services for Veterans Families, the Northport VA and legislative initiatives that have increased availability of housing for those who have sacrificed so much to serve our great nation and their families. While this is a tremendous accomplishment, we must remain ever vigilant and work to ensure that our returning veterans never face the unacceptable challenge of being homeless.”