

**PRESS RELEASE FROM LEGISLATOR
KATE BROWNING**

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BROWNING SECURES FUNDING FOR NEW VAN TO ASSIST DISABLED VETERANS

\$14,627 Offset Aids Veterans Organization During Tough Economy



Pictured from left to right: (Peter DeBella, State Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Suffolk County 7th Precinct Inspector John Meehan, Dennis Krulder, DAV Hospital Service Coordinator, and Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning standing in front of the new wheelchair van at the 7th Precinct in Shirley)

Mastic, NY- Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning (WF-Shirley) has secured \$14,627 to offset the cost of a new van for the Disabled Americans Veterans Transportation Network, which transports veterans to events and to VA medical facilities for free across New York State.

The Disabled American Veteran's vans are driven by volunteers who help transport veterans to the Northport VA Medical Center to receive the care they need. This is a service to assist those that were disabled while protecting our freedom overseas in the past and the present. The DAV Transportation Network assists veterans across New York State and receives federal funding to operate.

Suffolk County receives the federal capital assistance funds, purchases the vehicles, and then transfers them to the DAV. In 2007 and 2008 on behalf of the Disabled American Veterans organization (DAV), Suffolk County received \$56,179 and \$60,831. The cost share for this funding is eighty percent federally funded, ten percent from New York State, and normally ten percent is paid for by the DAV. Legislator Browning was contacted by the DAV because of financial uncertainty that it was facing from the failing economy. The ten percent cost share was going to be a hardship, and Legislator Browning did not want to see this valuable program struggle to

continue assisting veterans. Many veterans from the Vietnam era are utilizing the van. However the increased demand from veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan makes it even more important for the program to get the funding it deserves.

Legislator Browning secured \$14,627 from within Suffolk County's budget to offset the DAV's ten percent cost share. This money has allowed the organization to purchase a new van to aid in its efforts to help our disabled veterans.

"This program is so important in helping our injured veterans when they return home," stated Browning. "In these tough economic times we need to be cautious with our tax dollars. Wasteful services need to be cut and important services need to be maintained. This is an integral service for our service men and women, who are risking their lives to protect our freedoms here at home. I am glad I was able to assist in reducing this burden on the Disabled American Veterans."

The Suffolk County Police Department allows the organization to keep their vans on the grounds of the seventh precinct in Shirley. This allows local volunteer drivers to have close access to the vans. Inspector John Meehan of the 7th Precinct was on hand to welcome the new van.

If you are interested in volunteering for Disabled American Veterans you can call 516-887-7100. Veterans who are interesting in joining the DAV can receive an application online at www.davny.org. To be eligible you must be a man or woman who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the United States of America, and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans. Others who are disabled while serving with any of the armed forces of any nations associated with the United States of America as allies during any of its war periods, who are American citizens and who are honorably discharged, are also eligible.