

**RESOLUTION NO. 174 -2015, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW
NO. 13 -2015, A LOCAL LAW TO PROTECT THE HONOR OF
DECORATED VETERANS**

WHEREAS, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on February 3, 2015, a proposed local law entitled, "**A LOCAL LAW TO PROTECT THE HONOR OF DECORATED VETERANS**"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that said local law be enacted in form as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 13 -2015, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

A LOCAL LAW TO PROTECT THE HONOR OF DECORATED VETERANS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that the veterans of the United States Armed Forces placed their lives on the line to protect the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this nation.

This Legislature finds that some veterans went beyond the call of duty during their service, risking their personal safety to perform heroic acts to protect or save another person from injury or death.

This Legislature determines that many soldiers receive decorations or medals, which provide lasting and public recognition of their heroic acts.

This Legislature also finds that some unscrupulous individuals falsely claim to have received such decorations to obtain tangible benefits, money or other valuable items.

This Legislature further finds that such actions are disgraceful and tarnish the accomplishments of those who acted bravely in the heat of battle to protect their brothers in arms or innocent civilians.

This Legislature also determines that an individual who fraudulently represents himself or herself as a decorated veteran in order to obtain money, property or other tangible benefits should be subject to penalty.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to prohibit persons from deceitfully presenting themselves as a decorated veteran in Suffolk County for personal gain.

Section 2. Definitions.

As defined in this law, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

“Combat badge” shall mean a Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Combat Action Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Ribbon or Combat Action Medal.

“Person” shall mean any natural individual.

Section 3. Prohibitions.

No person shall, with the intent of obtaining money, property, or other tangible benefit, fraudulently hold themselves out to be the recipient of a military decoration or any of the following medals:

1. The Congressional Medal of Honor;
2. A Distinguished Service Cross;
3. A Navy Cross;
4. An Air Force Cross;
5. A Silver Star;
6. A Purple Heart; or
7. A Combat Badge.

Section 4. Penalties.

Violation of any portion of this law shall constitute an unclassified misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or up to 1 year’s imprisonment.

Section 5. Applicability.

This law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 6. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 7. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and/or (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

DATED: March 24, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: April 20, 2015

After a public hearing duly held on April 6, 2015
Filed with the Secretary of State on May 20, 2015