

JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor



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Town of Oyster Bay
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Oyster Bay, NY 11771

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JOHN VENDITTO

VETERANS ADVISORY NEWS

Venditto, Pinto Welcome United States Military All-Star Baseball Team



The Town of Oyster Bay recently hosted the United States Military Allstar Baseball Team for a special game against the Long Island Force, a team of outstanding high school all-stars. The game was spearheaded by Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto (fourth from right) and Town Councilman Joseph G. Pinto (3rd from right), who has coached little league baseball in Massapequa for many years. The game paid tribute to our fighting men and women and celebrated the great American pastime of baseball. Among the elected officials on hand (back row left to right) were Village of Massapequa Park Mayor Jeffrey P. Pravato (left) Nassau County District Court Judge Rhonda Fischer (2nd left) Councilwoman Michele M. Johnson (5th from right), Town Supervisor Venditto, Councilman Pinto, Nassau County Legislator Michael Venditto (2nd right) and Town Clerk James Altadonna Jr. (right).

The Town's Veterans Service Division

In an effort to better serve the Town's veterans, Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto, with input from members of the Town's Veterans Advisory Council, created the Town's Veterans Services Division. Since then, the division has assisted countless veterans and addressed a myriad of their needs and concerns.

The division is located in Town Hall South, 977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa, and focuses on a wide variety of veteran's issues and has established a network of communication between the veteran community throughout the Town of Oyster Bay and the Office of the Supervisor. The division is staffed by veterans with deep and comprehensive understanding of matters relating to our service men and women. They routinely work on methods to resolve individual concerns, such as the explanation of veteran's benefits and entitlements, and assists veterans with matters under the Town's jurisdiction and beyond.

If anyone in the Town is a veteran or knows of a veteran who needs assistance or has special concerns, please contact the division at 516-797-7875.

Important Phone Numbers

- Town Supervisor John Venditto - 624-6350
- Town of Oyster Bay Veterans Services - 797-7875
- Nassau County Veterans Services Agency - 572-6560
- Veterans Health Alliance of Long Island - 489-2322 ext. 1101
- Nassau County Office of Physically Challenged (Handicapped Parking Permit) - 227-7399
- Transportation to VA Hospital - 572-6565
- VA Hospital - Northport -1-631- 261-4400
- Women Veterans Wellness Center at VA Hospital - (Northport) 1-631-261-4400 – Ext. 5314
- Veterans Center, Babylon -1-631-661-3930
- Veterans Center, Hicksville - 348-0088
- LI State Veterans Nursing Home – 1-631-444-8387
- VA Regional - (Toll Free) 1-800-827-1000
- VA Life Insurance - (Toll Free) 1-800-669-8477
- Nassau County Suicide and Crisis Counseling - 679-1111

www.oysterbaytown.com

Dear Residents and Fellow Veterans:

Our brave servicemen and women have always stood as a symbol of democracy, protecting our freedom and fighting for our precious way of life. The deployment of our military personnel all around the globe is a reminder that freedom is never really free. The sacrifices made by our nation's veterans in the name of freedom can never be overstated. I believe we all have an obligation to thank our veterans and continually offer our support. This is why my office is always open to veterans. It is also the catalyst behind the creation of the Town's Veterans Services division, which focuses on addressing diverse needs of our local veterans.

This mailing details newsworthy items relating to the veterans community and provides information that all of our residents should find helpful and enlightening.

If you or your fellow veterans are ever in need of assistance, please feel free to call our Veterans Services Division at (516) 797-7875. You can also write to the committee at the following address:

Supervisor John Venditto
Attn: Veterans Advisory Committee
Town of Oyster Bay
54 Audrey Avenue
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

FALL 2013

Venditto Honors Veterans at Town's "Salute to America" Program

The Town of Oyster Bay revealed the names of its 2013 Veterans Volunteer Awards at its annual Salute to America held over the summer at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa. This year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is Rich Rossi of American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 88 in Massapequa. The Veteran Volunteer of the Year recipient is John (Jack) Hipp of the the American Legion's Massapequa Post 1066. The Non-Veteran Volunteer of the Year Recipient is Beverly Birney, of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1066, Massapequa.



Town Supervisor John Venditto (2nd right) met with the award recipients prior to the Town's Salute to America Program. On hand (left to right) were Town Clerk James Altadonna J., Councilwoman Michele M. Johnson, Supervisor Venditto and Councilman Chris J. Coschignano (continued on page 2)

Local Veterans at July 4th Parade in Massapequa Park

Many veterans like those pictured here from Massapequa American Legion Post 1066 proudly participated in Independence Day Parades throughout the Town of Oyster Bay. These parades provide a great opportunity for our residents to show these veterans their respect and appreciation.



Town Hosts Veterans Health Care Enrollment Initiative

The Town of Oyster Bay Veterans Services Division in cooperation with the V.A. Northport Medical Center Outreach program, recently hosted a veterans administration outreach health care enrollment event at its Town Hall South Office in Massapequa. Nearly fifty veterans, who were not in the VA Health Care System, were enrolled as the result of the outreach program. "Most importantly, each of these veterans are now in the Veterans Administration Health Care



Town Supervisor John Venditto (back row, left) recently attended the Town's Veterans Outreach Program.

System and can go to any VA facility in the United States to get needed care," Supervisor Venditto said. "We look forward to partnering with Northport VA to host this event again in the near future."

For further information on future outreach programs in the Town of Oyster Bay contact the Veterans Services Division at 516-797-7875.

Town Honors Veterans With Recognition Pin

The Town of Oyster Bay is issuing a special commemorative pin for any Town of Oyster Bay resident who is actively serving in the military, the reserves, or is a veteran. The pin depicts the seagull from the official Town of Oyster Bay seal boldly outlined in flight over the American flag. The outer edge of the pin is inscribed with the words "Town of Oyster Bay Veteran." "Whether it's worn on the lapel of a suit or jacket

or displayed in a case, it makes a strong statement about the recipient's service to the United States of America, as well as their roots here in the Town of Oyster Bay," said Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto, who conceived and advanced the pin concept. "The pin is a very special and appropriate way to recognize and highlight those who have worn the uniform in defense of this nation." Town of Oyster Bay veterans can call the Town of Oyster Bay Veteran's Services Division at (516) 797-7875 for more information on how to receive the pin.



"Salute to America" Program (continued from page 1)

Richard Rossi is a Past AMVETS New York Department Commander and Past Commander of AMVETS Memorial Post 88. He has dedicated much of his life toward advancing causes of AMVETS and the general welfare of the community. "Under the able direction of men like Rich, AMVETS has continued to be a force within the veteran community, providing assistance to those in need and building awareness to important issues of concern," Supervisor Venditto said.

Jack Hipp is a Past Commander and Trustee of the American Legion's Massapequa Post 1066. When he took over the reins of leadership in 2005, he served an unprecedented six consecutive terms as Commander. Jack toils behind the scenes and accomplishes tremendous goals without need for fanfare. Under his dedicated leadership, the Legion's members participated in numerous historical commemorative events and community programs.

Beverly Birney, this year's winner of the Non-Veteran Volunteer Award, is a proud resident of Farmingdale and a longtime member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1066, Massapequa. Beverly has been innovative with her approach to advocacy and has initiated many worthwhile programs including countless "stand down" days.

"There is no greater recognition than to be acknowledged by one's peers, and these members of the veteran community truly deserve tremendous credit," Supervisor Venditto said.

Monument Unveiled In Bethpage to Memorialize Medal of Honor Recipient 1st Lt. Stephen E. Karopczyc

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto (at podium) addresses a large crowd in Bethpage's Rotary Circle at a special ceremony to unveil a memorial for Medal of Honor Recipient 1st Lt. Stephen E. Karopczyc. Lt. Karopczyc, who grew up in Bethpage, served in the United States Army's Company A, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He received the medal posthumously for heroic action on March 12, 1967



in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. At risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, Lt. Karopczyc, under intense enemy fire, in the open, hurled colored smoke grenades to designate the positions of the enemy for helicopter gunships. He was wounded above the heart by an enemy sniper but continued to direct his men. Though placed in a safe area with 2 other wounded soldiers, he leaped upon an enemy grenade which landed a few feet from them, sacrificing himself to protect his comrades. He succumbed to his severe wounds 2-hours later. In January 1969, Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented the Medal of Honor to his parents Edward and Katherine Karopczyc. Both of Karopczyc's parents attended the memorial ceremony in Bethpage. Also at the ceremony were (left to right) Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano, New York State Assemblyman Michael Montesano, Town Supervisor Venditto and Town of Oyster Bay Councilwoman Michele M. Johnson.

Stefanich Reminds Veterans About Property Tax Exemptions

With a new generation of military veterans becoming homeowners in the Town of Oyster Bay, Town Receiver of Taxes James J. Stefanich wants to ensure that they, and every veteran, including those who served during the "Cold War," are aware that they may be eligible for a property tax exemption. An informative free brochure on this subject can be downloaded from the Town's Web site, www.oysterbaytown.com. or by calling or writing to the Town of Oyster Bay Public Information Office, Town Hall East, 54 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771 (624-6380).

Free Transportation Program

Veterans in need of transportation to the Northport VA Hospital or the VA Clinic at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow can do so through the Nassau County Volunteer Transportation Program. Volunteer drivers are also needed. For more information, please call (516) 572-6565.

After More Than 60 Years... Earned Medals Finally Presented



Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto presented U.S. Army service medals to George Fincken of North Massapequa at a recent ceremony held in the Veterans Services Office, Town Hall South, Massapequa, NY. Mr. Fincken earned the awards for his service in Korea and the Town of Oyster Bay Veterans Services Office arranged for him to receive his medals from the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Mo.

Supervisor Venditto Proclaims Town of Oyster Bay As "Purple Heart Town"

To honor those veterans who have been wounded or have made the supreme sacrifice while in service to the country, Town Supervisor John Venditto has officially proclaimed the Town of Oyster Bay to be a "Purple Heart Town." The designation was made at a recent meeting of the Oyster Bay Town Board with the issuance of an official Town proclamation, which was presented to representatives from the New York State Military Order of the Purple Heart and Chapter 417 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

"Many men and women have rendered great service to our nation, but the service rendered by those who served in the military in times of war is not merely great, it is incalculable," explained Supervisor Venditto. "It is our duty as citizens of this free nation to honor that great tradition of service and perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices of the dedicated men and women who so loyally served this country."

The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military. The Purple Heart is the oldest military award that is still given to members of the U.S. military. There have been almost 2 million military members killed in action or wounded Purple Heart recipients in the United States of America.



Shown are (back): Councilmen Chris J. Coschignano, Joe Pinto, Joe Muscarella and Anthony D. Macagnone; Receiver of Taxes James J. Stefanich; Town Clerk James Altadonna Jr.; (front row) Councilwomen Michele M. Johnson and Rebecca M. Alesia; Connie Steers, Past Commander New York Department Military Order of the Purple Heart; Robert Chiappone, Commander of Chapter 417 Military Order of the Purple Heart; Supervisor John Venditto and Town Veterans Services Officer Matt Rufrano.

According to Supervisor Venditto, the original Purple Heart, designated as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by George Washington—then the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army – by order from his Newburgh, New York headquarters on August 7, 1782. The Badge of Military Merit was only awarded to three Revolutionary War soldiers and from then on, as its legend grew, so did its appearance. Although never abolished, the award of the badge was not proposed again officially until after World War I.

"The award serves as an important reminder to military personnel past and present, that their extraordinary sacrifices and hardships are remembered and truly appreciated," Supervisor Venditto said. "The Freedoms we all enjoy in this great Nation are directly attributable to the exemplary service of our men and women in uniform. If the time ever comes when we fail to remember and reflect upon the sacrifices of our veterans, we will surely lose the freedoms that we've come to enjoy as citizens of the United State of America."

Supervisor Venditto said that he and his colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board are proud to join in honoring and recognizing all who have served this country in the military and particularly recognize those who have been either wounded or killed in the service in defense of the United States of America. "It is our special honor and privilege to declare the Town of Oyster Bay to be a Purple Heart Town," Supervisor Venditto said. "It is the sacrifice of these brave men and women that have made the United States of America the land of the free."