

JOHN VENDITTO
Town Supervisor



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Town Supervisor
JOHN VENDITTO

VETERANS ADVISORY NEWS

Venditto Honors Korean War Veterans at Ceremony held at Massapequa Park



Town Supervisor John Venditto (fifth right) joined with Nassau County Legislator Michael Venditto (sixth left), Assemblyman Joseph Saladino (fifth left) and Village of Massapequa Park Mayor Jeffrey (ninth, left) Pravano in attending the Korean War Veterans Ceremony held at Massapequa Park to honor the surviving veterans and pay respect to the 102 residents of Nassau County who have made the ultimate

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 - 572-6565
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-Northport - 572-6526
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
Long Island Crisis Center - 679-1111

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.

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. 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.

Town of Oyster Bay Hosts Veterans "Salute To America" Awards Ceremony

Ceremony Included Town Recognition Of Veterans Advocates

The Town of Oyster Bay's Veterans Volunteer Awards recently took place at John J. Burns Park, Massapequa, as part of the "Salute to America" concert, according to Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto. The program included a musical performance by "Tramps Like US" (a Bruce Springsteen tribute band) and concluded with spectacular fireworks by Gucci. A major highlight of the program was the presentations to the winners of the Town of Oyster Bay's 2014 Veterans Volunteer Awards.



Dean Karahalos (right) and the Concert Pops Orchestra headlined the Salute to America concert as part of the Music Under the Stars concert series. Among the officials attending were Town Councilman Anthony D. Macagnone (2nd from left), Town Councilwoman Michele M. Johnson (4th from left), New York State Assemblyman Joseph Saladino (center), Nassau County Legislator Michael Venditto (left) and Nassau County Judicial Court Judge William O'Brien (fourth from right).

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Town Dedicates Towers of Freedom Memorial Plaza at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa

The Town of Oyster Bay recently dedicated the Towers of Freedom Memorial Plaza at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa. The plaza pays tribute to all those who lost their lives on 9-11 and also recognizes all branches of the military, NYPD, FDNY, PAPD and other first responders on that fateful day.

"My colleagues on the Oyster Bay Town Board and I were proud to work with all facets of the community to make this memorial plaza a reality," Supervisor Venditto said. "The plaza is prominently situated at the front of the park, where the peaceful surroundings and distant sounds of those enjoying the park are a fitting backdrop for a place of remembrance and reflection."

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“Salute to America” Program *(continued from page 1)*

This year’s recipients included Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Guillermo “Bill Toro” Torres (US ARMY) of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82 in Nassau County, Veteran Volunteer of the Year Recipient Robert E. Reahl (US NAVY) of American Legion Post 1812 in Plainview, New York and Non-Veteran (Friend of Veterans) Volunteer of the Year Recipient Barbara Tortorice of the American Legion Auxiliary Archie McCord Post # 86 in Bethpage, New York.

Guillermo “Bill Toro” Torres was this year’s winner of the Town’s Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1968 Bill volunteered to serve his country and, after joining the United States Army, was assigned to the First Infantry “The Big Red One.” He served in Vietnam from March 1969 to March 1970. While on maneuvers, Bill’s vehicle tripped a land mine. He sustained shrapnel wounds to his chest and powder burns to his left eye. After being patched up at a M.A.S.H. unit he returned to his fellow soldiers to continue their mission. For his service to his country and morality in the aftermath of his injury, Bill was awarded the Purple Heart. Bill has continued his service for his fellow veterans long after his active duty concluded. He has been involved in veteran organizations for more than 17 years, including distinguished service with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82 and the William Gouse Post 3211 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Robert E. Reahl, a resident of Plainview, was this year’s recipient of the Town’s Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Robert, a member of American Legion Post 1812 in Plainview, served in the United States Navy during the Korean War from 1952-1956 as well as inactive reserves from 1956-1960. He is a Past Commander of the Nassau County American Legion and was named Post Legionnaire of the Year 2014-2015. Robert volunteers extensively for visits to the VA Nursing Home/Hospital and all local Homeless Veterans “Stand Downs.” He has been a force within the veteran community, providing assistance to veterans and their families, building awareness to important issues of concern and participating in numerous worthwhile events and charitable endeavors.

Barbara Tortorice of the American Legion Auxiliary Archie McCord Post # 86 in Bethpage, was this year’s winner of the Non-Veteran Volunteer Award. Barbara has been innovative with her approach to advocacy and has initiated many worthwhile programs that have greatly improved the welfare of veterans. She has volunteered as committee chairman for many projects benefitting veterans, soldiers and children. She has served as President for both the Archie McCord Unit # 86 in Bethpage and the Nassau County American Legion Auxiliary.

“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. “The legacy of this year’s recipients’ involvement on issues and concerns affecting veterans is to be truly commended. The ‘Salute to America,’ is an ideal venue to recognize these deserving honorees and also thank active members of our military.

Councilwoman Johnson Visits Veterans Outreach Program



Town of Oyster Bay Councilwoman Michele Johnson (right) is pictured at a meeting of the newly formed veterans club from the Lifetime Enrichment Center at Oyster Bay. Matt Rufrano, (left) from the Town’s Division of Veterans Services, spoke to the members of the new club and advised them on various matters including benefits that are available to them.

Field of Honor Dedication



Town Supervisor John Venditto (right) was joined by Town Councilman Joseph G. Pinto (fourth from right) and Town Clerk James Altadonna Jr. (back row left) at the Massapequa Kiwanis Club’s Field of Honor at Massapequa High School. 250 flags were placed at the school as a show of patriotism and support for our veterans.

VET2VET Peer Networking Group

Town of Oyster Bay veterans seeking a connection with fellow Nassau County veterans are encouraged to join the Vet2Vet Networking Group. The program enables small groups of veterans to meet weekly to share knowledge, provide mutual support and share resources with fellow Nassau County veterans. Groups are co-facilitated by a diverse team of fellow veterans who have been trained in providing veteran peer support. Weekly meetings are held on Thursdays, 2:00 pm at the North Massapequa Community Center, 214 North Albany Ave. Massapequa. Contact Jeff McQueen at 489-2322 ext. 1202 or jmcqueen@mhanc.org or website: www.veteranshealthalliance.net for more information.

“Shootout For Soldiers” 24 Hour Lacrosse Game Benefit Held
Two Day Contest Supporting US Troops Conducted at Massapequa’s Field of Dreams

The Town of Oyster Bay, in conjunction with US Lacrosse and the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation, Inc., hosted the “Shootout for Soldiers” 24 Hour Lacrosse Game Benefit at the Town of Oyster Bay’s Field of Dreams, located on Old Sunrise Highway in Massapequa this past summer. The round-the-clock event benefitted wounded American Military personnel, according to Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto.

“This was the first time that ‘Shootout for Soldiers’ was played on Long Island and we are extremely proud that one of our outstanding Town fields was selected as the venue for this highly regarded event,” Supervisor Venditto said. “Everyone who participated in this lacrosse event played for both the love of the game and to support those who serve our country.”

“I am very grateful to Shootout for Soldiers in Long Island for their support of the Gary Sinise Foundation and our nation’s wounded service members,” television and movie star Gary Sinise said. The Gary Sinise Foundation was one of the beneficiaries of this event along with the Wounded Warrior Project, the Semper Fi Fund and the Ranger Lead the Way Fund.

Harry Jacobs, Chairman of the Shootout for Soldiers Committee, said this event was a big success. He expressed his appreciation



Oyster Bay Town Councilman Anthony D. Macagnone (right) shown with “Shootout for Soldiers” participants.

to all those who helped make it possible. “I would like to give special thanks to all those involved in the planning of this event, especially the Town of Oyster Bay,” Jacobs said. “The contributions and support of the many talented and capable people helped make ‘Shootout for Soldiers’ a reality here on Long Island and made this a unique event and a fun way to support our troops.”

Town Dedicates Towers of Freedom Memorial Plaza at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa

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Supervisor Venditto said the Town worked side by side with the Board of Directors of the Towers of Freedom Military Monument, Inc., a charitable organization incorporated in New York State. It was originally formed by retired members of NYPD, FDNY and the US Military, some of whom were first responders to the Twin Towers on 9/11. The design for the plaza incorporated ideas from the committee and from the public. It includes a scaled version of the towers, statues paying tribute to the military and first responders and inscriptions reflecting the sentiments of the day and those that were lost. “The goal was to create a tasteful memorial plaza to honor and remember the victims of the September 11 tragedy, a defining day in American history that will remain forever etched in our memories,” Supervisor Venditto said. “The architects created this deeply moving plaza that depicts both a sense of profound loss and also an overwhelming feeling of pride, patriotism and resilience.”



Supervisor Venditto Reminds Town of Oyster Bay Veterans to Apply for their Commemorative Pin

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.

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).