



# THE BERLAND BULLETIN

From the Office of Suffolk County Legislator Susan A. Berland



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Welcome to the 16th Legislative District's (16th L.D.) newsletter. It has been a privilege to serve as your County Legislator over the course of my first term. I have been working hard to address the pressing issues facing our district and county and, as I have throughout my time in public service, I remain committed to improving the quality of life of the residents of the 16th L.D.

I am proud to have introduced, championed and passed several pieces of crucial legislation during my tenure thus far. I have worked to improve the quality and affordability of housing in Suffolk County, pioneering a revolutionary law requiring that a portion of the County's contribution to any future affordable housing development be used to create units that remain affordable in perpetuity, giving more people a chance to live and work in Suffolk County. In an effort to combat illegal squatters, I sponsored legislation which requires that the County notify public utilities when homes owned by the County become vacant.

As Chairwoman of the Legislature's Veterans Committee, I sponsored legislation creating the Suffolk County Women Veterans Advisory Board. The Board ensures that the voices of all our veterans are heard and their concerns are addressed. I also sponsored legislation to extend and create property tax exemptions for Cold War-Era and Operation Graphic Hand veterans and to declare May "Military Appreciation Month." My staff and I partake in the Suffolk County Veterans Run Series, the proceeds of which benefit organizations that serve veterans.

I remain committed to the safety and well-being of Suffolk County's residents. I introduced and championed legislation to require that any criminal offense committed against a person at a water park or amusement park be immediately reported to law enforcement. I worked to establish a free sunscreen dispenser program at twenty-one County parks, beaches and golf courses, providing access to protection from harmful ultraviolet radiation and aiming to reduce the incidence of skin cancer and melanoma in Suffolk County. In an effort to bring awareness to important causes, I introduced resolutions declaring October "Dyslexia Awareness Month" and May 14th "Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day" in Suffolk County.

My office door is always open and I look forward to working with you to serve our common interests and address your concerns. I will continue to represent our community by listening to and addressing your concerns and collaborating with you on important initiatives. Please visit our Facebook @SusanABerland as well as our Instagram @LegislatorSusanABerland to receive updates about upcoming and past events throughout our district.

All the best,

*Susan A. Berland*

# LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

I sponsored a resolution that passed the Legislature unanimously declaring May 14th to be "Childhood Apraxia of Speech Awareness Day" in perpetuity. CAS is a neurological disorder which causes a child's brain to have difficulty coordinating the complex oral movements needed to create sounds into syllables, syllables into words and words into phrases. With heightened awareness and early intervention, children with CAS will be able to receive the services they need to develop the skills necessary to thrive in school and in their daily lives. I sponsored this legislation because it is important to shed light on a condition that many people are unaware of.



As Chairwoman of the Legislature's Veterans Committee, I work to ensure that the voices of all our veterans are heard and their concerns are addressed. I sponsored a resolution, which passed the Legislature unanimously, creating the Suffolk County Women Veterans Advisory Board. This board will provide female veterans with a protected space to discuss issues that pertain to them, a platform to advocate for their best

interests and the ability to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding proposed legislation, policies and programming that affect female veterans. Thank you to my colleagues for their support of this vital initiative and thank you to Christine Glynn, StacyAnn Castro Tapler, Magdolna Resker and Cathie Norton Doherty for your advocacy. I look forward to the great work that the Advisory Board will do for Suffolk County's female veterans.



Brentwood High School's Science Research Club encourages students to remain involved in STEM studies outside of the classroom. I was happy to sponsor a resolution donating computer equipment to the club to further enable them to provide BHS's students the resources they need to excel in their scientific pursuits.



The Legislature approved the sale of land owed to The Greens at Half Hollow's Home Owners Association for the construction of a building to house the community's maintenance equipment. As a result of legislation that I sponsored and championed, this purchase is underway.

The Legislature also voted to curtail the usage of single-use plastics such as straws as well as polystyrene, commonly known as Styrofoam. Straws and stirrers will still be available by-request-only at sit-down restaurants and will be biodegradable. Suffolk County has long been a leader in environmental protection and I was pleased to support these efforts to mitigate plastic pollution and to protect our landscape, waterways and wildlife as well as the health and safety of Suffolk County residents. We all have the responsibility to be stewards of our environment and to preserve our precious natural resources.



## SPOTLIGHT ON VETERANS



Suffolk County is home to the largest population of veterans in New York State. County Executive Steve Bellone and I recognized a group of World War II veterans, all of whom stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day 75 years ago whose bravery and valor saved the world. We can't thank you enough for your service.

At this year's Annual Suffolk County Veterans Appreciation Breakfast we recognized the heroes we lost from the Jolly 51 Crew of the 106th New York Air National Guard Rescue Wing:

Major Andy O'Keefe, Major Chris 'Tripp' Zanetis, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso, Staff Sergeant Dashan Briggs and Vietnam Veteran Earl Doug Brown as well as all of Suffolk County's veterans. It is incumbent on us to express our gratitude for the sacrifices our veterans made in service to our country.



# SPOTLIGHT ON VETERANS



Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and I recognized Eva L. Casale with a County proclamation at the June general meeting of the Legislature. Eva runs seven marathons in seven days each year all across Long Island to raise funds and awareness for Hope for the Warriors, a not-for-profit organization that serves post-9/11 veterans from all branches of the military. Eva started her 184 mile running tour this year in Huntington on April 27, 2019 and ended her journey in Copiague on May 3, 2019. Thank you Eva for all that you do for Long Island's veterans.



My office hosted a free mobile veterinary clinic with Paws of War as part of their Vets2Vets Program which brings veterinary care free of charge to veterans who might not otherwise be able to provide the necessary care for their animals.

I was honored to attend Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone's Flag Day Ceremony in Armed Forces Plaza to raise a flag flown in Long Island National Cemetery, Calverton National Cemetery, Babylon Memorial Elementary School, Long Island State Veterans Home and finally in Normandy, France on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. We were joined by World War II veterans and veterans from other eras from across Suffolk County to display our collective respect and reverence for our flag and our great nation. Covanta also held a Flag Day ceremony to unveil their program which will honorably retire unseverable American flags. God Bless America.



I joined my colleagues in elected office, veterans' organizations and the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project to announce the restoration of New York State funding for the Dwyer Program. The Dwyer Program can and does save veterans lives. I am glad to see that New York State's financial support for this vital organization has not only been restored but increased by \$300,000.



To commemorate the 69th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War, I joined Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency Thomas Ronayne, Ambassador Hyo-Sung Park of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, local veterans groups and dignitaries at a ceremony to mark the beginning of the war. I want to thank the Korean War Veterans Central Long Island Chapter and their President, Sal Scarlato, for organizing this ceremony every year and all who attended. I am grateful for ceremonies like this that call on all of us to recognize our veterans and the sacrifices they have made so that we never forget.



The Suffolk County Veterans Run Series is comprised of 9 events, including the Suffolk County Marathon, all of which benefit not-for-profit organizations that work with veterans in Suffolk County to address their needs. My staff and I are participating in the run series this year and encourage everyone who is able to do so as well or to donate online. We must do all that we can to best serve those who so valiantly served us.

# EVENTS IN THE 16TH DISTRICT

As the mother of an Eagle Scout, I know the time and dedication needed to achieve the rank of Eagle and just how special the Eagle Court of Honor Ceremonies are for the young men and their families. These young men, through hard work and determination, are bettering our community. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors and cannot wait to see the great things they will achieve with their new eagle wings.



From left: Troop 106 Eagle Scouts Daniel Renter and Christian Terrone; Troop 309 Eagle Scout Srinath Gandham; Troop 409 Eagle Scout Ryan M. Miller.



The Greens Chapter of Hadassah held their Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show and I was happy to be in attendance to walk the runway for a good cause.



In collaboration with the Town of Huntington, I hosted the 9th Annual Anne Frank Memorial Ceremony to honor the memory of Anne Frank and to recall her legacy, her courage in the face of unspeakable tragedy and her genuine belief in the goodness of mankind. Anne's story speaks of life, love and humanity. Thank you to our guest speaker, Mr. Meir Usheroitz for sharing your story with us.



I joined Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Catholic Health Services and my colleagues on the Legislature to unveil a free sunscreen dispenser program at Smith Point County Park, just one of 21 dispensers located at various County parks, beaches and golf courses. I sponsored legislation establishing this program and worked to secure a three-year sponsorship from Catholic Health Services to cover all the costs associated with the program. As a skin cancer survivor, I encourage everyone using our beaches, parks and golf courses to remember to use our free sunscreen if you didn't bring your own!



Our Lady of the Rose Knights of Columbus Council #4428 held their Annual "Top Cop" Award Ceremony and recognized Suffolk County Police Officer Michael Marzullo, a Deer Park resident, for his invaluable service to the community. I was honored to be on hand to present Officer Marzullo a County proclamation and to extend congratulations and express gratitude for his service.



Maintaining our inland bodies of water is of utmost importance in order to accomplish our water quality and environmental goals. I attended a clean-up of Penataquit Creek in Bay Shore where volunteers from Seatuck and the Bay Shore First Baptist Church came out to pitch in.



The First Baptist Church of Bay Shore held their Annual "Under the Big Tent" event and I was happy to be in attendance. Thank you to the volunteers from the First Baptist Church and The Great South Bay YMCA as well as all those from the community that came out to what was a wonderful, fun-filled day.



Kelly Kramer joined the ranks of Troop 783, Service Unit 10 Gold Star Girl Scouts recently after working tirelessly, building sensory planter boxes for students with autism at Variety Child Learning Center. It was my honor to present her a County proclamation and 16th Legislative District pin in recognition of her amazing achievement. Congratulations, Kelly!



On June 25, 2019, Suffolk County Police Officer Kevin Bell from the 3rd Precinct was dispatched to an emergency call for an adult male who had been hit by a machine inside a warehouse in Brentwood. When he arrived on the scene, Officer Bell found the victim laying on the floor, having sustained an injury to his upper leg and suffering from blood loss. Officer Bell retrieved his department-issued tourniquet and, due to his rapid response and the immediate and appropriate medical attention that he rendered, the victim is expected to make a full recovery. Officer Kevin Bell's quick response and life-saving actions are the epitome of what our Police Department provides for Suffolk County and Legislator Samuel Gonzalez and I were proud to honor his heroism with a County proclamation and thank him for his dedicated service to our community.



We had a wonderful time at this year's Long Island Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day Parade in Brentwood. Thank you to everyone that came out to dance, celebrate and have a good time.



The Dix Hills Selects 10U and 12U All-Star Recreational Hockey Teams were recognized during May's general meeting of the Legislature for winning the Eastern Junior Elite Prospects League (EJEPL)'s MADD Division Championships. Congratulations to both teams and their coaches. Here's to another great season!



The LGBT Network held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for their beautiful new center in Hauppauge. The new center is the largest suburban LGBT center in the nation. The Network continues its mission to provide supportive services and a safe space for the LGBT community from the Midtown Tunnel to Montauk.



The Suffolk County Legislature hosted the Annual Distinguished Youth Awards Ceremony where we celebrated high school students from across the County who completed the rigorous, volunteerism-based project. Congratulations to Emily Sullivan and Zachary Seltzer from the 16th Legislative District for this incredible achievement.



My office collected over 130 lbs of pet food, treats, cat litter and pet accessories for the Long Island Cares' Baxter's Pet Pantry. The Pantry makes free pet food and supplies available to families in need in Suffolk County. Thanks to all who stopped by to donate!



The Constantino Brumidi Lodge #2211 in Deer Park recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. It was my pleasure to present past-President Daniel Calise with a County proclamation in honor of the occasion. Salute!