

# THE BERLAND BULLETIN



**From The Office of Legislator Susan A. Berland**

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## Suffolk County's 311 hotline is "the call that does it all."

For COVID-19 updates, text "COVIDSUFFOLK" to 67283. For updates in Spanish, text "COVIDESPANOL" to the same number.



As 2020 comes to a close, my family, staff and I are taking time to reflect on what a challenging year this has been. COVID-19 has, of course, changed everything. We have all been affected by the pandemic - whether we fell ill or know someone who was ill; lost a loved one or know someone who did; experienced economic hardship and uncertainty; lost our job or know someone who did; our older children moved back home or our younger children could not attend school - we are all contending in some way with the very real toll this year has taken on our lives and our physical and mental well being.

Given all the heartache of 2020, we also have to take stock of what we are grateful for this year: our family, friends, loved ones and the ways we were able to help each other through these trying times.

We held an inaugural virtual Suffolk County Women Veterans Appreciation Day event, giving our female veterans the recognition and praise they deserve. We launched the "Know the Difference" asthma education campaign to help educate people on the differences between daily and rescue inhalers at a time when COVID-19 has put breathing issues clearly in the forefront of our health concerns. We passed legislation to amend the definition of "veteran" to include those who were wrongfully discharged from the military for being LGBT or while struggling with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries or military sexual trauma.

On a personal note, I will be entering my 20th year in elected office in 2021, and am proud to announce that I have been selected as the Legislature's new majority leader. This is a privilege and a responsibility that I take very seriously, and I will do my utmost to continue to represent the residents of the 16th LD and to protect the interests of all of the residents of Suffolk County.

2020 has been tough for all of us. None of us can predict the future, but I assure you that my staff and I are here for you. So please be safe – wear a mask – wash your hands – use hand sanitizer - practice social distancing or, better yet , to the greatest extent that you can, stay home. Have a very happy holiday season - and for now, visit virtually with family and friends.

I look forward to seeing you in person soon. Until then, I hope you have a very happy new year. Stay healthy and safe.

*Susan A. Berland*



My son and I stood on line to vote at the Dix Hills Fire Department during the first days of early voting. It was heart warming to see how many turned out to do their civic duty.



It was such a pleasure to see residents of The Bristol at East Northport for their National Assisted Living Week celebration.



Congratulations to Deer Park Fire Department Ex-Captain Mike Palmo for 50 years of service to the Department and the community.



Congratulations to Brentwood Legion Ambulance's Celine Vasquez who was named the 16th L.D.'s outstanding volunteer EMS personnel for 2020. Thank you for your service, Celine, we are so proud of you!



We couldn't be prouder of Emily and Grace Sullivan and Gianna and Vanessa Tantillo. These young women collected over 400 toys and raised \$9,281 for Kids Need More, a nonprofit dedicated to helping children living with cancer and life-threatening illnesses.



Congratulations to Lidl in East Northport on your grand opening. Welcome to the neighborhood!



Congratulations Boy Scout Troop 218's newest Eagle Scout, Anthony F. Tasti! We're so proud of you.



Leg. Kennedy, representatives from DPW, VFW Post 9263 and I came together to find a solution to safeguard and maintain the Vietnam Memorial in Commack.



We visited the Greens at Half Hollow on Veterans Day to present proclamations to those who served our country.



Juliana R. Josinsky



Jason W. Bruckner

**We're So Proud Of Our 16th L.D. Merit Scholar Semifinalists and Commended Students!**



Michael Han



Rithika Narayan



Simran Chaudhry



Kyra Ramonetti



Victoria Albanese



Juliana Weber



Devin Lee