

# TOWN OF BABYLON VETERAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

An Informational Newsletter for Babylon's Veterans - April 2016

Warriors,

Welcome to another edition of the Town of Babylon's Veteran's Advisory Council Newsletter! I would like to remind you about the Veteran's link on the Town of Babylon's webpage. All upcoming Veteran events and information is posted on this page. You may access the webpage by visiting [www.townofbabylon.com](http://www.townofbabylon.com) and clicking the Veterans tab at the bottom of the page.

I welcome all to attend the next Veteran's Advisory Board meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 11th in the Town Board Room. There will be an over view of Babylon's veteran initiatives and we will hold elections for the Advisory and Steering committee positions. Please see the enclosed letter with all pertinent information.

This summer we look forward to hosting the annual veteran bike ride. Mark your calendar for Friday, July 15th to ride or cheer on our veterans and participants! All information as it becomes available will be posted on the veteran's link at [townofbabylon.com](http://townofbabylon.com).

Please remember to keep our soldiers who are in harm's way and their families here at home in your thoughts and prayers.

Warm regards,

*Jackie*



## A Message From Senator Michael Venditto



Honor, duty, respect, and love for one's country. These are just some of the many qualities that describe the heroes that have served, and continue to serve, our great nation and the State of New York in the Armed Forces. Because of their sacrifice, each and every one of us can live happy, healthy, and secure lives in this, the greatest country in the world. That is why it is our responsibility, our duty, as citizens

of New York to serve our veterans, to give back just a small bit of what they gave for us, by helping them transition back to civilian life.

This is why I have strongly supported programs such as the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer program, which brings veterans together in a safe setting to help one another cope with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Since its beginning three years ago, this program has improved the quality of life for hundreds of Suffolk County veterans and, based on its success as a national model, it has been expanded throughout New York State. I also have been proud to support other veterans programs such as the expansion of the "Alternative Veterans' Exemption" to active duty service members, "Operation Recognition," which allows veterans to be awarded a high school diploma based on the knowledge and experience gained in the military, and legislation that allows honorably discharged veterans to attend classes at SUNY and CUNY tuition free.

I very much look forward to continued work with veterans rights organizations in Albany and here on Long Island to pass significant and necessary legislation for our service members. Veterans have already put their lives on the line for us and served heroically for our country. I, for one, want to give back.

Visit the new updated town website with a new veteran's section to keep you informed with news and coverage of town events.

[www.townofbabylon.com](http://www.townofbabylon.com)

### TOWN OF BABYLON

Richard Schaffer, Supervisor

Councilman Antonio Martinez, Deputy Supervisor

Councilwoman Jacqueline A. Gordon, Chair - Veteran's Advisory Council

Tom Donnelly, Councilman

Lindsay P. Henry, Councilman

Carol Quirk, Town Clerk

Corinne DiSomma, Receiver of Taxes

## Cards to Veterans

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre helped organize the collection and distribution of over 2,000 Valentine's Day cards to local veterans and seniors. The cards



were sent to local school districts, where students decorated and added a special personal note to express their appreciation and gratitude. The cards were then dropped off at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center and various senior centers throughout the community this week.

"Valentine's Day is more than just a holiday for flowers and chocolates. It's a time to express our respect for and give recognition to those who have worked to make our community better," said Jean-Pierre. "This was an amazing opportunity for local students to reflect on the sacrifices made by veterans and seniors in building a brighter future for us all. I hope these valentines show the veterans at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the senior citizens in our community the adoration, care and honor we have for them."

### Dedicated Veteran Parking Spot at Town Hall



The Town of Babylon continues to remember and honor our nation's heroes. As a small token of our appreciation, this past January we were proud to have unveiled a reserved parking spot for Veterans visiting Town Hall.

Look for the sign pictured above and the parking spot is located on the East side of the building. This is our opportunity to say "thank you for your service" every day.





# VETERANS UPDATE

## West Babylon Student Kyra Duke Honors Veterans



Ralph Rienzo Friend of a deceased Veteran honored by Kyra  
Robert Congiusta, Friend of a deceased Veteran honored by Kyra

Rich Schaffer, Supervisor, Town of Babylon

Ton Donnelly, Councilman, Town of Babylon

Carol Quirk, Town Clerk, Town of Babylon

Jackie Gordon, Councilwoman, Town of Babylon

Kyra Duke

Paul Buffa, 1st Vice Commander Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634, West Babylon

Tony Martinez, Deputy Supervisor, Councilman Town of Babylon

Ryan Duke, Brother

Mother Mrs Duke

Kyra Duke, a Junior High School Student from West Babylon spoke to Veterans, Town Officials and community members at Town Hall this past December explaining her project honoring Veterans.

Ms. Duke noticed a plaque on the wall at the high school of alumni who went on to serve in the military and consequently died while serving our country. Kyra wanted to honor them. She spent most of her summer researching this project and creating a beautiful memorial.

Kyra's memorial was presented to the Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 in honor of Veterans Day. Ms. Duke has been recognized by the Veterans, Town of Babylon and by the West Babylon Board Of Education.

## Mark Your Calendar



Play a Round of Golf  
for Our  
Veterans

### Wayne Middleton 1839 Family Legion – Sons- Auxiliary

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Cedar Beach Golf Course

18 hole par 3

\$75 per person – 4 person team

9AM Shot Gun Start

### FOOD – BEER – SODA – WATER

Tee Sponsor \$75.00 ( plaque )

Make Checks Payable to: Wayne Middleton Post 1839

Mail to: 102 Claremont Avenue, North Babylon, NY 11704

**Contact:**

Jim Majorana (516) 375-4740

Is there a homeless person in your community?  
If you see someone, save someone.

**Call the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless at  
631-464-4314 x 118 to report.**

Please include location and any identifying characteristics.

\*The LICH will coordinate outreach efforts within 24 hours of calls.

This past fall, Councilwoman Gordon met with representatives of Services for the Underserved to discuss their services and The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, in which both are dedicated to eliminating homelessness on Long Island. As part of their initiative to end Veteran homelessness, the Town joined in their efforts and printed "If You See Someone, Save Someone" stickers for each of the inside of our vehicles. Employees have been encouraged to call the LICH hotline if they see a homeless person in their travels.

### *Combat Veterans Get Telephonic Health Care Application Option*

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that it has amended its enrollment regulations to allow Veterans to complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. The change is effective immediately for Combat Veterans and will be effective July 5, 2016, for all Veterans.

For more information, Veterans can contact the Health Eligibility Center Enrollment and Eligibility Division toll free at 1-855-488-8440.