



Thomas R. Suozzi
County Executive

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Press Release from the Veterans Service Agency

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Nassau County Executive Thomas R Suozzi announced today that the county will be holding three Veterans Benefit Fairs this year for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The first of the fairs will be Monday, March 17, at the Cradle of Aviation, Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, Garden City 11530 from 9 am to 1 pm. This series of benefit fairs is the first to reach out specifically to veterans who have served in the US Military since September 11, 2001.

National Grid, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, MTA Long Island Bus, Verizon and 1800flowers.com will join the Northport VA Medical Center, New York State Department of Labor and Division of Veteran Affairs, Nassau Community College, New York Regional Office Department of Veterans Affairs and Nassau County Veterans Service Agency and the Long Island Veterans Health Alliance to offer information, applications and advice to our county's newest veterans. 2,500 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have been invited to attend this inaugural benefit fair. Future fairs are planned for June 17 and September 20, 2008 also at the Cradle of Aviation.

Benefits include nearly \$40,000 for college education provided through the GI Bill, On the Job Training and Apprenticeship money, which expires over time, and an additional \$8,000 for education offered by New York State. Veterans must apply for benefits within 5 years of returning home from service to receive benefits at a VA Medical Center. One application will ensure lifetime enrollment in VA Medical Center privileges. Injuries or diseases acquired in the military or aggravated by service are compensable if the veteran applies for the benefit. The Department of Veterans Affairs and New York State offer programs that can make home ownership easier and war time veterans are eligible for real property tax exemptions. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, a condition frequently acquired by combat veterans, can be treated by Department of Veterans Affairs facilities or by several private facilities in the county including: The Family and Children's Association, Veterans Resource Center 516-935-

6858, Central Nassau Guidance 516-822-6111, Peninsula Counseling 516-569-6600, and the Rosen Family Wellness Center at LIJ 516-562-3260.

Directions to the Cradle of Aviation: Meadowbrook Parkway to exit M4, follow signs to Museum Row which will put you on Charles Lindbergh Blvd, stay on Charles Lindbergh Blvd. to the second traffic light and turn right into the parking lot.

For questions on the Veteran Benefit Fairs or any other veteran's issue, call the Nassau County Veteran Service Agency 516-572-8452.