

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steven H. Stern**

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR  
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT  
1842 E. Jericho Tpke. Suite P  
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday October 8, 2008

CONTACT: **Deborah Harris**  
LEGISLATIVE AIDE  
OFFICE: 631-854-5100  
deborah.harris@suffolkcountyny.gov

### **Legislator Steve Stern Joins County Executive Levy to Expand Real Property Tax Exemptions for Veterans**

*Spouses and Unremarried Surviving Spouses of Veterans to Receive Equal Benefits*

**Huntington, NY** – Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-16<sup>th</sup> L.D.) and Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, joined County Executive Steve Levy by co-sponsoring legislation to expand real property tax exemptions for Suffolk veterans and their spouses.

Suffolk County has extended several tax breaks to its veterans. Spouses and unremarried surviving spouses of veterans have traditionally been offered most of the same real property tax exemptions. This new change allows for Suffolk to expand tax exemptions for spouses or unremarried surviving spouses of veterans, to enable eligible spouses or unremarried surviving spouses to transfer their exemptions to a new residence within the town in which they reside.

This new legislation will allow veterans living at a home purchased in a spouse's name or a late veteran's unremarried widow to continue receiving tax exemptions after moving to a new home within the same town or village. If the move is outside of the town or village, but still within Suffolk County, it becomes the local town or village assessor's choice to either maintain the exemptions or not uphold them.

"I am proud to join with the County Executive to sponsor this legislation that will help the families of our veterans who wish to remain in their towns in Suffolk County," Legislator Stern said. "Particularly during these difficult economic times and at this time of war, it is important to support our veterans and their families. I hope that the Legislature will pass this bill and provide this important relief to those who so bravely defend our freedom."