

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 22, 2013

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN AND THE VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE "PURPLE-UP" FOR MILITARY KIDS

April is the Month of the Military Child



Pictured L-R: Tom Ronayne, Director Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency, Legislator Tom Muratore, Legislator Tom Barraga, Beth Delli-Pizzi, President, Family Readiness Group, Fighting 69th, Staff Sergeant Ted Gentile, Andrew Gentile, Tiffany Gentile, Fighting 69th, Legislator Steve Stern, Legislator Sarah Anker, Vicki Fleming, 4-H Youth Development Program Director, Operation Military Kids, Legislator DuWayne Gregory, Deputy Presiding Officer Wayne Horsley, Sheana Morris, Veterans Services Officer.

HUNTINGTON, NY –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, welcomed Staff Sergeant Ted Gentile, Tiffany Gentile and Beth Delli-Pizzi of the Family Readiness Group for the Fighting 69th and Vicki Fleming, of “*Operation Military Kids*” to the Veterans and Seniors Committee to mark April’s “*Month of the Military Child.*” The “*Month of the Military Child,*” recognizes the children of the brave men and women serving our great nation. Additionally, April 15th is

“Purple-Up for Military Kids Day,” to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Members of the Committee wore Purple Ribbons to show their support for our military families.

Staff Sergeant Gentile spoke about the stresses faced by military families during multiple deployments and the challenges returning servicemen and women face, particularly in securing employment. He was joined by his wife, Tiffany, who is active in the Family Readiness Group, which provides services to military families and their three year old son, Andrew.

“Operation Military Kids” is a program designed by 4-H Youth Development to provide services to military families who do not live on or near bases. The large majority of Suffolk County’s servicemen and women are National Guard members and Reservists, whose families are seriously impacted by multiple deployments, particularly financial disruption. Children often struggle with their parents’ absence and their education and social lives are impacted. **“Operation Military Kids”** provides services to assist military families with these issues.

To mark the “Month of the Military Child” Legislator Stern will be hosting an event **this Sunday, April 28, 2013** at Monster Mini-Golf, in Deer Park for children of active-duty, Guard members and reservists. Owners John Nicolette and Steve Gramolini have graciously donated use of their fantastic facility for this event. **“Operation Military Kids”** will be there, along with Long Island Cares. The event is from **10:100 am-12:00 pm** at Monster Mini-Golf, 410-C Commack Road, Deer Park, NY.

“I thank Staff Sergeant Ted Gentile for his service to our great nation and also thank his wife, Tiffany and his son Andrew for the sacrifices that they make every day to ensure that our freedom and way of life is protected,” Legislator Stern said. “I also thank Beth-Delli-Pizzi and Vicki Fleming for the work that they do to assist our military families. We owe them more than just our thanks, we owe them meaningful support. I encourage military families to join us on April 28th for our **“Month of the Military Child”** event so that we can thank them for their service.”