

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN MARKS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Half Hollow Hills Youth Lacrosse and Suffolk County SPECIAL PAL "Challenger" Lacrosse Team Hosts "Dust-Off" with Nassau County PAL Special Needs Unit Garden City Athletic Association "Challenger" Team



Pictured l-r: Back row: Suffolk County Police Officer Rich Gorgone, Director Suffolk County Special PAL

Legislator Steve Stern, Garden City "Challenger Lacrosse" Coach Brian Collins, Half Hollow Hills Challenger Coach Jim Wallace, Hills Assistant Coach Jim Luddeman and Hills and Garden City Challenger players and student coaches.

HUNTINGTON, NY- Legislator Steve Stern, (D—Huntington, 16th LD) joined with the Suffolk County Police Athletic League (PAL) Special PAL and the Nassau County Special Needs Unit PAL to host a special "Dust-Off" game between the Half Hollow Hills Challenger and the Garden City Challenger Lacrosse Teams. The game was played at Half Hollow Hills High School East. SC Special

PAL and NC Special Needs Unit PAL provide varied athletic and social opportunities for children with special needs ranging from Autism Spectrum Disorder to Downs Syndrome and physical disabilities. Programs are co-educational and are open to children from ages 5-19. In 2007, Legislator Stern sponsored legislation marking April as Autism Awareness Month in Suffolk County to help raise awareness and educate our community about Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities which affect as many as 1 in 88 children. These programs not only provide young people with the opportunity to participate in a wide range of athletic events, they also provide support for their families. "I am pleased to join with Nassau and Suffolk PAL and most importantly with our children with special needs and their families to help inform our community about the programs available to them," Legislator Stern said. Special thanks to Det. Lt. Robert Donohue, Commanding Officer, Community Outreach Bureau, Police Officer Rich Gorgone, Director, Suffolk County Special PAL, James Wallace, Coach, Hills Challenger Lacrosse, and Brian Collins, Coach, Garden City Challenger Lacrosse and to all of the athletes and their families. For more information about Special PAL programs please visit <http://scspecialpal.com/>