

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Steve Stern

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PRESS RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN INFORMS VETERANS ABOUT “AID AND ATTENDANCE” BENEFITS

Melissa Schuchmacher of the Arbors discusses programs



Pictured l-r: Tom Ronayne, Director, SC Veterans Services Agency, Legislator Al Krupski, Legislator Sarah Anker, Legislator Tom Muratore, Melissa Schuchmacher, Director of Business Development, The Arbors, Legislator Steve Stern, Legislator Tom Barrage, Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory

HUNTINGTON, NY –Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16th LD, Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, welcomed Melissa Schuchmacher, Director of Business Development of The Arbors Assisted Living, to the Veterans and Seniors Committee to discuss “Aid and Attendance” (AA) benefits and the “Heroes Welcome” program, which is open to veterans and first responders.

The Veterans Administration (VA) AA program provides additional benefits to veterans who meet one of the following conditions:

- require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment.
- are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment.
- are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.
- eyesight is limited to a corrected 5/200 visual acuity or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

These benefits are also available for nursing home care and housebound veterans may also receive assistance. Spouses and survivors of veterans may also be eligible for “AA” benefits.

“Our Veterans and first responders deserve something special, so to thank them, we have created a program called ***The Heroes Welcome Program***, which includes a discount as well as specialized programs specific to Veterans’ interests. Having a Veteran Liaison on staff to assist families with the Veteran Aid & Attendance Pension application as well as hosting Vet’s Chats is a great support for our Veteran Residents,” Schuhmacher said. “I am so proud to be part of this wonderful organization where we can be advocates for our seniors and give them the respect and dignity they deserve. We understand it is difficult for families to plan for their loved one’s future, so we have dedicated staff to make planning easier.”

“Far too many of our veterans and their families do not know that they may be entitled to “AA” benefits,” Legislator Stern said. “This is particularly important because making the decision to place a loved one in an Assisted Living community or nursing home is difficult to begin with and is a financial strain for most families. I thank Melissa Schuhmacher for sharing her perspective with the committee and the Arbors for their exemplary programs and work to ease the financial burden of assisted living for our hero veterans and first responders.”

For more information about “AA” benefits, please visit:

http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/aid_attendance_housebound.asp or call the Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency at (631) 853-VETS.