

**Affordable Housing for Homeless and Low-Income Vets at Former North Amityville Reserve Center.** The former North Amityville Armed Forces Reserve Center will continue to have a military presence, this time as an affordable housing and supportive services apartment complex for low-income and homeless veterans. New 1 and 2 BR apartments are available for immediate occupancy at Liberty Village, 600 Albany Avenue, North Amityville. Applications are available at <http://concernhousing.org>.

**New Veterans Crisis Respite & Diversion Program.** An initiative of Suffolk County United Veterans/Clubhouse of Suffolk and the Mental Health Association of Suffolk offers intervention on stress and behavioral health crises before they result in hospitalization, risk behaviors, damage marriage or family relationships or cause homelessness. Services include up to 7 days housing with meals, social work and/or substance abuse services, and peer support. 631.484.9725 seven days/week.

**Older Vets Suicide Epidemic.** Much recent attention has deservedly been paid to the shocking suicide rate among Iraq and Afghanistan vets, but a recently article in the political insider e-zine *National Journal* reports that nearly 70 percent of all veterans who commit suicide are age 50 or older, according to VA stats. Experts attribute the senior suicides to undiagnosed PTSD, the lasting stigma of Vietnam service, and to chronic pain exacerbated by aging. The article goes on to say that recent legislation proposed in Congress to expand mental health services to vets only extends eligibility to 15 years post-service, leaving out the Vietnam generation. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/defense/why-are-so-many-older-veterans-committing-suicide-20140413>.

**NY Senator Gillibrand Supports Legislation to Make it Easier To Appeal Bad Paper.** NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has announced her support for legislation that would require the government to include mental health experts on panels that handle appeals from veterans seeking to clear their records of disciplinary discharges. Recent studies have shown that the military characterizes many other-than-honorable discharges as due to personality disorders rather than service-related PTSD or TBI, denying vets access to vital benefit and services. <http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/sen-kirsten-gillibrand-takes-up-fight-for-veterans-with-mental-issues-1.7730673>

**Landmark Washington Post Study of Iraq, Afghan Vets.** The Washington Post's just-released *Legacy of Pain and Pride* is a superb multi-media analysis of the 2.6 million Americans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. It finds that the long conflicts, which have required many troops to deploy multiple times and operate under an almost constant threat of attack, have exacted a far more widespread emotional toll than previously recognized. More than half the vets struggle with physical or mental health problems stemming from their service, feel disconnected from civilian life and believe the government is failing to meet the needs of this generation's veterans. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2014/03/29/a-legacy-of-pride-and-pain/>. Heartbreaking and essential reading.