

Assemblyman **Joe DeStefano**



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

Tour of DaVita Kidney Center

I enjoyed touring the DaVita Kidney Care Center here in Medford. DaVita Kidney Care is a leading provider of kidney care in the United States, delivering dialysis services to approximately 203k patients with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. It was great talking with the patients and the staff and learning of their needs. I will always stand up and be an advocate for those in need.



Sharing My Experiences as an Assemblyman with South Ocean Middle School Students

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with students from the South Ocean Middle School Independent Research Class with Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon. Inquiring minds wanted to know all about the inner workings of Albany and what it is like to represent the amazing constituents of the Third Assembly District. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with these bright young students.

Standing Up For Seniors

I met with representatives of AARP to discuss their Rx priorities for 2020, including bills that would end prescription price gouging against seniors, drug manufacturer disclosure and transparency, and expanding the EPIC program. From left are: Cynthia Piercy, Ronald Kaminsky, Doreen Day, and Kevin Hyms. Seniors are fortunate to have such a dedicated team advocating for them.



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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



Third Place in the Legislative Pace

I enjoyed participating in the Legislative Pace with other New York State Assembly and Senate members. Although I came in third place, it was an exhilarating experience to harness race in jog carts at Yonkers Raceway.

Creating Inclusive Learning Environments

I had the honor of meeting with Center Managers Kelly Cerney and Cindy Henderson of Long Island Head Start in Medford. Long Island Head Start's mission is to provide a comprehensive learning environment to children respectful of their cultures and to assist families in reaching self-sufficiency through the combined efforts of parents, community, and staff.



Working Together to End Bullying

What a great time spent with the Girl Scouts as we came together to bring awareness to the anti-bullying campaign. The Misfit March in Mastic Beach had everyone wearing mismatched socks in solidarity with those who've experienced bullying and the many people working to stop it.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Linda and I were fortunate enough to join the good folks at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Mastic Beach at their annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. The compassion and concern they have for their neighbors is amazing and we were so happy to be with them. We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving.



Advocate for Our Unions

I enjoyed addressing the 250 members of the Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees Retirees Unit. It was nice to have the opportunity to speak with my old colleagues after retiring from the sheriff's department. The Suffolk County AME has 6,500 active members and 4,000 retirees.



Getting Into the Christmas Spirit

It was a thrill to be part of the 50th Annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Mastic and Shirley. This year's theme was Golden Memories, and it was great to see the members of so many community organizations and groups taking part despite the terrible weather conditions. These are the people who make our community so wonderful and I was delighted to be there with them.



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Honoring Those Who Protect Us

It was nice to be back with so many good friends at the SCAME Veterans Dinner. I appreciated the opportunity to honor FDNY firefighter Jesse Phillips. These are the people who work tirelessly and with dedication every day to make our country great.



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It was a great honor for me to participate in the ceremony to honor one of our area's greatest veterans, Anthony Bugala, who gave his life for our country during World War II. Thanks to the efforts of Gregory Miglino, a Marine Corps veteran like PFC Bugala, Dunton Avenue in East Patchogue will forever honor this heavy machine gunner who lost his life at age 21 during the battle of Guadalcanal. I hope everyone takes some time to recognize and be thankful for those who helped ensure our freedom.

"All gave some; while some gave all" is a phrase that has always had a profound impact on me. Many times, we take for granted the freedoms and rights we enjoy thanks to the sacrifices of others. If not for those who served or are currently serving in our military, we could very well be living in an entirely different world. Today, and every day, we thank you for your courage, selflessness, and honor in protecting our country." – Assemblyman Joe DeStefano



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