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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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RICHARD NICOLELLO

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PRESIDING OFFICER

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VETERANS COMMITTEE

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LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

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CHAIR

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Theodore Roosevelt Building

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1550 Franklin Avenue

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Mineola, New York

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January 10, 2022

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5:29 P.M.

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2     A P P E A R A N C E S :

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4     LEGISLATOR JAMES KENNEDY

5                     Chair

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7     LEGISLATOR C. WILLIAM GAYLOR III

8                     Vice Chair

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10    LEGISLATOR ROSE MARIE WALKER

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12    LEGISLATOR MAZI MELESA PILIP

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14    LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

15                     Ranking member

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17    LEGISLATOR JOSHUA LAFAZAN

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19    LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

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1 Veterans - 1-10-22

2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Call the  
3 Veterans Committee to order and ask the clerk  
4 to call the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you. Roll  
6 call. Legislator Joshua Lafazan.

7 LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN: Here.

8 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia  
9 DeRiggi-Whitton.

10 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:  
11 Here.

12 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member  
13 Debra Mule.

14 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

15 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Mazi  
16 Melesa Pilip.

17 LEGISLATOR PILIP: Here.

18 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose  
19 Marie Walker.

20 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

21 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman C.  
22 William Gaylor III.

23 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

24 MR. PULITZER: Chairman James  
25 Kennedy.

1 Veterans - 1-10-22

2 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: Here.

3 MR. PULITZER: We have a quorum.

4 LEGISLATOR KENNEDY: May I have a  
5 motion to suspend the rules. Moved by  
6 Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator  
7 Lafazan. The rules have been suspended.

8 There is one item on the agenda  
9 today which is clerk item 3-22. Clerk item  
10 3-22 is an ordinance to be known as the Hiring  
11 Our Heroes Act amending Section 6 of Ordinance  
12 180-2016 to exempt active duty and military  
13 veterans from the payment of civil service  
14 examination fees.

15 May I have a motion. Moved by  
16 Legislator Walker. Seconded by Legislator  
17 DeRiggi-Whitton. Legislator Lafazan sorry.  
18 The item is before us.

19 Active duty military and veterans  
20 have selflessly served our nation by fighting  
21 for freedom and protecting all who live within  
22 its borders. These brave men and women, as  
23 well as their families, have made countless  
24 sacrifices so we can continue to live freely  
25 and peacefully within our great nation.

1                   Veterans - 1-10-22

2                   Further, active duty military and  
3 veterans receive exceptional training where  
4 discipline, leadership, grit and unparalleled  
5 work ethic have been instilled within its  
6 participants. As a result, active duty  
7 military and veterans utilize these skills in  
8 their respective careers outside the military.

9                   Accordingly, it is within the best  
10 interests of Nassau County to encourage active  
11 duty military and veterans to pursue a career  
12 in public service. This ordinance exempts  
13 active duty military and veterans from paying  
14 the Nassau County civil service exam fees  
15 which provides such encouragement.

16                  This ordinance was initially  
17 introduced by Legislator Lafazan and is now  
18 cosponsored by the remaining members of the  
19 Nassau County Legislature.

20                  Is there any debate or discussion?  
21 Yes, Legislator Lafazan.

22                  LEGISLATOR LAFAZAN:     Thank you  
23 Legislator Kennedy. I was proud to support  
24 this bill called the Hiring Our Heroes Act and  
25 I want to specifically thank my Republican

1                   Veterans - 1-10-22

2       colleagues in the legislature. There has been  
3       a consistent bipartisan commitment in  
4       supporting our veterans. I know it will  
5       continue in the session, so thank you for your  
6       support. I know I have worked with Legislator  
7       Gaylor, who is a veteran himself, and I thank  
8       him as well.

9                   19 million Americans are veterans  
10      and 55,000 of those veterans live right here  
11      in Nassau County. Our veterans are truly  
12      amongst the greatest citizens of us and we owe  
13      them a debt of gratitude that we can never  
14      repay.

15                  Yet, our commitment to our veterans  
16      does not end when they take off their  
17      uniform. This commitment is lifelong, it's  
18      enduring and it's iron clad. And it's in this  
19      vein that we have to do better as a country,  
20      as a state and as a county in serving those  
21      veterans. 581,000 veterans were unemployed in  
22      the year 2020 and this number continues to  
23      rise as we deal with COVID-19.

24                  The Hiring Our Heroes Act will  
25      exempt veterans and active duty service

1                   Veterans - 1-10-22

2       members from civil service examination fees.

3       As we heard directly from veterans themselves,

4       this will open the door to employment here in

5       Nassau County, encourage more veterans to join

6       our workforce. And as statistics show,

7       veterans make some of the best employees in

8       the workforce today.

9                   So, I thank my Republican

10      colleagues for their support and I look

11      forward to getting this bill signed into law.

12      Thank you.

13                  LEGISLATOR KENNEDY:      Thank you

14      Legislator Lafazan. Any public comment? All

15      those in favor of passing this item please

16      signify by saying aye. Opposed? The item

17      passes unanimously.

18                  There is no other business in front

19      of this committee. May I have a motion to

20      adjourn. Moved by Legislator Walker.

21      Seconded by Legislator Lafazan. All those in

22      favor of adjourning? The committee is now

23      adjourned.

24                  (Committee adjourned at 5:33 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary  
Public in and for the State of New  
York, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing is a true and  
accurate transcript of my stenographic  
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand this 11th day of  
January 2022.

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FRANK GRAY