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**Nassau County Executive Laura Curran Recognizes Work of Veterans Service Agency
Comptroller Jack Schnirman Releases Report on Issues Impacting Veterans**

Officials recognize the valued work of the Veterans Service Agency and highlight key areas impacting Veterans in Nassau County during Veterans and Military Families Month

Mineola, NY – After working with County Executive Laura Curran and the County’s Veterans Service Agency, Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman today released a data-analysis and report that details the top-line issues impacting the more than 50,000 veterans of the United States Armed Services currently residing in Nassau County.

The report breaks down the demographics of the Veterans living in Nassau County; the challenges they face; and what services are available, including the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency.

“I want to thank Commissioner Ralph Esposito and his staff at the Nassau County Veteran’s Service Agency for their dedication to the men and women who have served this country,” said Curran. “The work of the Comptroller on this report will help us identify and provide even more services.”

“As our report shows, Nassau County’s Veterans Service Agency does tremendous work, and we hope by raising awareness and sharing this data when can bring more people together to help support those efforts,” Schnirman said. “It’s our responsibility as citizens to spread awareness and advocate for additional support. By using data to drive the path forward, we can make a positive impact in the lives of tens of thousands of residents who have served our country.”

The Comptroller’s demographic analysis revealed the Veterans population in Nassau is the third largest by County in New York State, totaling 4.9 percent of the overall population. Of those, 36,638 or 71.5 percent of the Veterans population are age 65 and older; 27 percent have a disability; 1,569 live in poverty; and 20 percent struggle with mental health.

In addition to reviewing the demographics of the County’s diverse Veteran’s population, the issue brief released highlights five key areas of policy awareness and advocacy.

1. **Connecting veterans to existing services and resources:** Veterans in need should be directed to the County’s Veterans Services Agency to identify the services and resources they’re entitled to receive from all levels of government.
2. **Housing options:** Affordable housing is a challenge facing policymakers, but it’s especially pressing for veterans of all ages who are susceptible to homelessness, from returning vets who are first-time homebuyers, to senior citizens.

3. **Jobs and financial safety:** Helping veterans transfer their skills to the workforce, from local government to technology, healthcare, and law enforcement.
4. **Entrepreneurship:** Veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans, and these businesses generate more than \$1 trillion in sales to the national economy.
5. **Mental health and substance abuse:** Nearly 20 percent of returning veterans face PTSD, depression, or a traumatic brain injury during deployment, and approximately 50 percent of veterans in need of mental health services never seek treatment options.

“All of these issues play a key role in making sure our veterans have what they need to live a full, healthy life,” said Curran. “Housing is a cornerstone to these efforts. A home can help provide stability and safety and we are working hard to add affordable housing in Nassau County.”

“As we recognize the contributions of Veterans to our society, it’s vital all levels of government support them when they return home from deployment,” Schnirman said. “This report is an important data analysis that helps government better identify the barriers Veterans encounter when trying to access services.”