April 2, 2014

For Immediate Release

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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

**\*\*TOMORROW\*\***

**Senator Lee Zeldin Announces Budget Win for PFC Joseph Dwyer Program**

**What:** Senator Lee Zeldin to announce continuation and expansion of the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer PTSD Peer-to-Peer Veterans Support Program

**When:** Thursday, April 3, 2014, 10:30am

**Where:** American Legion Post # 269, located at 215 South Ocean Avenue (at the corner of Baker Street), Patchogue, NY  11772

**Who:** NYS Senator Lee M. Zeldin; Members of the Dwyer Family; Speaker Ava Davis, Air Force OEF / OIF Veteran who attended the Vet2Vet groups in Nassau, and now has been hired by MHA Nassau as a Peer Facilitator; Local elected officials, including Paul Pontieri, Mayor, Village of Patchogue; Tom Ronayne, Director, Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency; Jeff McQueen, Program Coordinator/PFC Dwyer Vet2Vet; John Matuszak, Commander, American Legion Post #269, Patchogue; LW Murphy, County Chairman, American Legion Riders of Suffolk; Chris Delaney, President, 9-1-1 Veterans; local veterans

Senator Zeldin will be joined by local leaders and veterans to announce the continuation and expansion of one of his most significant legislative achievements to date: the PFC Joseph Dwyer PTSD Peer-to-Peer Veterans Support program.

Suffolk County is the proud home of the largest population of veterans in New York. The 2014-2015 state budget includes funding to build on the success of this critical program, which aims to assist with the mental health of our community’s heroes by providing them with peer-to-peer support to combat the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Senator Zeldin will also release a report on the success of the local program in Suffolk County. He will be joined by Ava Davis, Air Force OEF/OIF Veteran who participated in the peer-to-peer support groups in Nassau County and has now been hired by the Mental Health Association of Nassau to facilitate the program. Ms. Davis will speak directly to her experience and success working in the program.

Media is encouraged to attend.

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