Farmingville, NY - On Saturday, March 5, amidst family and friends, Lance Corporal Nelson Acevedo was joyously welcomed home, returning safely from his most recent tour of duty in Afghanistan. LCPL Acevedo was met by the Patriot Guard at Fort Dix in New Jersey and escorted all the way to the VFW in Rocky Point. According to LCPL Acevedo "It was just awesome."

Like many young soldiers of his generation, Nelson Acevedo decided to join the military as a result of 9/11, making up his mind to become a Marine in his junior year of high school. After boot camp, LCPL Acevedo departed for his initial tour-of-duty, deployed to Iraq from September 2008 to April 2009. Upon his return from Iraq, LCPL Acevedo became one of the US Marines chosen to be a part of the christening and maiden voyage of the USS New York in November 2009. The USS New York was built from the steel of the World Trade Center. LCPL Acevedo enjoyed greeting and escorting the many people who came aboard the USS NY; honored to be part of an event honoring the victims and the families of those that lost their lives so tragically.

LCPL Acevedo’s most recent deployment was to Afghanistan from July 2010 to Feb 2011. For LCPL Acevedo this was a much tougher deployment than his Iraq tour. In Afghanistan he received an award for saving a fellow Marine who was shot in an ambush, returning him to safety. Tragically, LCPL Acevedo and the 2/9 Marines incurred the loss of fellow Marines in this action. LCPL Acevedo said he will carry with him their memory and heroic sacrifice all the days of his life.

"We wanted to give Lance Corporal Acevedo a warm welcome home," said Councilwoman Bonner. "To thank him for his service and the sacrifices he and is fellow Marines make to protect our freedoms in the fight against terrorism."