Farmingville, NY - On May 20th, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh were in attendance for the 4th Annual PFC Joseph Dwyer Hero Rally and Freedom Run. The event was presented by the 9-1-1 Veterans and the U.S. Veterans Motorcycle Club, Long Island Chapter. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Lindenhurst-based 9-1-1 Veterans to help benefit veterans on Long Island.

The event is named in honor of the late Joseph Dwyer from Mount Sinai, who enlisted in the Army two days after September 11, 2001. A photo of PFC Dwyer rescuing a young Iraqi boy would later find itself in newspapers nationwide. When Joseph Dwyer returned home, he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, the effects of which would cause him to take his own life in 2008.

"For the fourth straight year, residents have shown their support for our nation's heroes by taking part in this great event," said Supervisor Lesko, "It is vitally important that those who protect our freedoms abroad receive the care that they deserve here at home. I would like to thank all of the organizations and individuals that played a role in this year's event and hope to see you all next year."

Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Walsh said, "It was an honor to join the Dwyer family and everyone who took part in the rally to honor Joseph's service and help benefit those who suffer from service-connected disabilities. Words cannot express my appreciation for the sacrifices that these honorable men and women have made for our great nation's liberty. It is only right that we lend them a helping hand in trying to leave the battle overseas."

"I was honored to participate in an event that not only honored a true American hero, PFC Joseph Dwyer, but also raised funds to help Long Island 9-1-1 Vets ensure all of our local veteran heroes can lead healthy and dignified lives," said Congressman Tim Bishop. "I thank Frank Bania, President of US Veterans Motorcycle Club - LI Chapter, Supervisor Mark Lesko, and everybody who made this event such a success."

9-1-1 Veterans President Chris Delaney said, "We have this motorcycle run to honor Joe so that his family realizes we understand their sacrifice for our country. We can no longer look the other way and pretend PTSD and the human
suffering that arises from this disease does not exist. We as a nation and a community let Joe and the Dwyer family down, we failed them when they needed us most. Joe answered his country's call when we needed him most and now through his story we can help others who suffer from the invisible wounds of war. We can change Joe's story back to the heroic tale it started as.

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