Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Kepert Attend the Longwood Veteran's Memorial Dedication at Bartlett Pond Park in Middle Island
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Councilwoman Kepert poses with Legislator Kate Browning, Assemblyman Dan Losquadro, Senator Ken LaValle, Assemblyman Dean Murray, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Congressman Tim Bishop.

Councilwoman Kepert, and Major General Anthony Kropp United States Army

Longwood’s Global War on Terror Memorial, the newest installation in a series of monuments honoring Longwood’s veterans

Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Connie Kepert joined Supervisor Mark Lesko and the Longwood community in thanking every hometown hero at the dedication of the Longwood Global War on Terror Memorial at Bartlett Pond Park on Saturday, June 16. The memorial is dedicated to the brave men and women from Longwood who have served our nation in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.
"This was a wonderful event hosted by the Longwood Alliance to thank all the men and women who sacrificed so much to serve their community," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

Supervisor Lesko said, "It was an honor to be present for the dedication of this beautiful monument. The men and women who have served our country have made tremendous sacrifices in defense of our freedom. I commend the volunteers who worked so hard to create a place where we can show our gratitude for the service of our armed forces and Councilwoman Kepert for her role in securing the funds."

The Longwood Veteran's project began in 1990 when a group of Longwood students heard a first-hand account from Coram WWII Navy veteran, James Eagle, who served during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The students were inspired to conduct a local history project called Longwood's Journey under the guidance of Longwood Junior High School Social Studies teacher Paul Infranco. Longwood's Journey incorporates veteran's stories and biographies from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror. With the help of Councilwoman Kepert, the Longwood Veteran's project was able to secure a grant totaling approximately $80,000 from the Caithness Host Benefit Fund, which allowed for the installation and dedication of seven monuments honoring those Longwood residents who have served in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terror. Caithness representative and member of the National Guard's 69th Infantry, Renee Rivera, was honored by Councilwoman Kepert for his bravery and swift actions that saved the life of his fellow infantryman, Sam Cila, after their convoy was struck by a roadside bomb in Baghdad in 2005.

Nearly 1,000 individuals attended the memorial dedication held on the beautiful morning of June 16th. The ceremony included musical performances by Longwood residents, the keynote speaker Major General Anthony Kropp of the United States Army, and the laying of wreaths at all seven monuments by the members of the Longwood fire departments. Suffolk County Police Officer, Mike Meehan, performed "Amazing Grace" on his bagpipes as the stone was revealed. Virginia Eagle, the widow of James Eagle, the WWII Navy veteran whose tale of surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor started the Longwood Veterans History Project, and Maria Wiener, the widow of Jeffrey Wiener, who was killed in action in Iraq on May 7, 2005, unveiled the new memorial. Maria's daughters Mikayla Lynn and Theadora Rose also joined in the unveiling.