Farmingville, NY - On Monday February 7, 2011, the Suffolk County Court complex in Central Islip hosted the grand opening of "The Veterans Court." One of only several in the entire State of New York and the first on Long Island, the court is geared toward helping veterans who are often arrested because they are dealing with unresolved psychological problems. In some non-violent cases, they may have their jail time waved if they agree to become enrolled in a treatment program at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Northport.

On hand to support local veterans and celebrate the grand opening was Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh. She said, "These men and women struggle with the numerous afflictions such as post traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism and substance abuse. We have to do a better job of helping our Veterans than we have done in the past. It is our duty to serve them as well as they have served us," commented Councilwoman Walsh.

Councilwoman Walsh continued, "We supported them by mailing packages to them overseas, and we should continue to support them when they return home."

That same evening, Councilwoman Walsh volunteered her time at the VFW Post on Edwards Avenue in Patchogue. There she joined area veterans, members of the 9-1-1 Veterans, US Veterans MC Long Island Chapter and Blue Star Mothers, in filling, sorting, stuffing, taping and labeling over 500 boxes to be shipped to our troops.

Councilwoman Walsh said, "This is a tremendous turn out! Our servicemen and women really appreciate receiving these packages all year long, not just for the holidays. Personal hygiene products for men and women, such as socks and underwear, are some of the most requested items! The ladies enjoy receiving and sharing nail polish for their toes. It makes such a big difference in their lives. I encourage everyone to contact any of these organizations and contribute your time."

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