Farmingville, NY - On Wednesday, May 15, 2013, Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilwoman Connie Kepert attended an award ceremony at the Yaphank Fire Department where they honored four Longwood student winners of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay Competitions. Michael Martinez and Lauren Hoey, 12th graders at the Longwood High School, were chosen as the winners of the "Voice of Democracy" Audio Essay Competition. The theme of this essay was "Is our constitution still relevant". Kelsey P. Shapiro, a 7th grader at Longwood Middle School, and Amber L. Mahoney, an 8th grader at Longwood Middle School, were chosen as the winners of the "Patriot's Pen" writing contest. The theme of this essay was "What I Would Tell the American Founding Fathers".

"As a former history teacher, I am pleased to know that young people have such a good understanding of our Constitution. I congratulate all the winners and thank the VFW for giving them the opportunity to show their patriotism by sponsoring the War Essay competition," said Supervisor Romaine.

"The Constitution is the highest law of the land and the foundation of our government," stated Councilwoman Kepert. "The Veterans of Foreign Wars who have fought to protect and preserve our nation is owned a grant of thanks for sponsoring an essay contest which highlights the relevance of this important document in our everyday lives. Congratulations to all the winners!" stated Ms. Kepert.