

Arbors Seniors Present Jacob's Light Foundation with Hand-Knitted Blankets; WWII and Iraq Veterans Serenaded by Students and Honored with 21-Gun Salute

6/1/2007 Bohemia, NY—On Friday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) hosted a ceremony to honor the residents of the Arbors Assisted Living Community who have knitted blankets and scarves to troops overseas. Gold Star Mother Dorine Kenney, Founder of the Jacob's Light Foundation, will partner with the Arbors and Congressman Israel to collect the blankets and include them in care packages that the foundation sends to active duty servicemen and women deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Arbors residents, including several World War II veterans, shared their motivations for participating in the initiative, and veterans and returned service members in attendance were honored by a song from elementary school students and a 21-Gun Salute.

"As members of the Greatest Generation, many seniors have vivid memories of World War II from either serving in the war or having a spouse or loved one deployed overseas," said Congressman Israel. "These seniors understand the hardships faced during a time of war and have channeled this understanding into a heartfelt effort to provide our service members with blankets and other hand-crafted items for the cold, desert nights in Iraq. I'm proud to honor them today."

"We are extremely proud of our residents for their initiative," said Karen Solomon, President of Arcadia Management, which owns and operates The Arbors. "The Knitting for the Soldiers Program has been a motivating and uplifting experience for all of us. We commend the efforts of all our service men and women and wanted to show them our love and support in a very special way."

The Congressman's office worked with The Arbors and the Jacob's Light Foundation, which will distribute the items. Organized in honor of PFC Jacob Samuel Fletcher of Babylon, Jacob's Light Foundation sends necessities and comforts of home to our military overseas.