

On any given night, 107,000 American veterans are homeless

Bay Shore, NY – On Friday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – New York) announced a \$250,950 federal grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the United Veterans Beacon House, a homeless veterans organization in Bay Shore, NY. Following delays, Rep. Israel pressed the VA to ensure the grant funding was offered and awarded in a timely manner.

“I’m glad we were able to cut through the red tape and solve this problem,” said Rep. Israel. “Tonight, more than 100,000 veterans will go to sleep homeless. Our veterans risked their lives in service to our nation and not a single one of them should ever have to go to sleep on the streets. Though we have a long way to go, we are making progress in our battle to end veteran homelessness, and that’s in part due to organizations like the United Veterans Beacon House in Bay Shore. Their work is helping our heroes get back on their feet.”

“For 16 years, United Veterans Beacon House has been helping veterans and their families move from transitional housing to permanent homes. The \$250,950 grant from the VA will support our work with the frail and elderly who use our services and housing. I’m grateful to Congressman Israel for supporting our efforts to secure this grant,” said Frank Amalfitano, President and CEO of United Veterans Beacon House.

The United Veterans Beacon House grant is funded through the VA’s Special Need Grants for Homeless Veterans Service Providers program. United Veterans Beacon House was one of 26 projects awarded funding nationally and the only award recipient in New York.

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, on any given night 107,000 veterans are homeless and twice that number experience homelessness over the course of a year. Nearly one-fifth of the homeless population are veterans.

Rep. Israel has long advocated on behalf of veterans and has helped to secure more than \$4.8 million in overdue VA payments for Long Island veterans.