

*More than 120 veterans attend; 64 Exhibitors*

Farmingdale, NY— Today, Rep. Steve Israel (D-Huntington) and Farmingdale State College hosted a resource fair for veterans featuring local businesses, state and local agencies and networking opportunities. Farmingdale State College President W. Hubert Keen, Rep. Israel, and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone offered remarks. A representative from the New York State Veterans' Business Outreach Center, a Small Business Administration District Veterans Business Development Officer, a representative from the New York State Department of Labor Resources, Stuart Levenberg of the Kensington Company and George A. Jones, a successful small business owner and a U.S. Army General (Ret.) also addressed the attendees.

Rep. Israel said, "Our young veterans, who put their lives on the line to defend our nation, face one of the highest unemployment rates nationwide. This is unacceptable, and this resource fair is a step in the right direction toward making sure that every veteran who needs a job has one. I thank Farmingdale State College and the many exhibitors and participants for their hard work today."

President Keen said, "I thank Congressman Israel for his efforts on the part of all veterans. Farmingdale State College has been recognized as a veteran-friendly campus, so holding this Veterans' Outreach is so appropriate."

County Executive Steve Bellone said, "I am pleased to join with Congressman Israel and Farmingdale College to offer a Job and Resource Fair for our American Heroes. It is imperative that all levels of government and the private sector assist in providing the resources needed for our veterans to gain employment, participate in vocational training programs, and access small business funding sources."

After the speaking portion of the program, the veterans participated in breakout sessions, a lunch and networking session and a roundtable discussion with successful veteran business owners.

The national unemployment rate was 8.3 percent for February 2012. As of January 2012, the

unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans was approaching 10 percent. In February 2012, the national unemployment rate was 8.3 percent. Meanwhile, among Post 9/11 veterans ages 18-24, the unemployment rate was 12.4% with males in that category facing 14.3 percent unemployment.