



Assemblyman **Fred W. Thiele, Jr.**



Highlights of the 2024 Legislative Session

NYLCV's 2024 "Environmental Champion"

I was proud to earn a perfect score of 100% on the New York League of Conservation Voter's (NYLCV) 2024 State Environmental Scorecard for my pro-environment votes during this past Legislative Session. I was also named NYLCV's "Environmental Champion" for my leadership in enacting the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act, Chapter #118 of the Laws of 2024. This measure, which appeared as Proposition #2 on this year's election ballot, was overwhelmingly approved by 72% of county voters.



On May 23rd, Governor Hochul signed the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act in front of state and local elected officials, labor leaders and environmental advocates at Captree State Park in Bay Shore. (Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office)

Protecting the Montauk Point Shoals

The Montauk Point Shoals is home to tens of thousands of waterfowl and seabirds that is continually threatened by non-point source pollution and other contaminants. To address this risk, the Governor signed legislation that I sponsored with Senator Palumbo, declaring the Montauk Point Shoals as an important bird area under the Environmental Conservation Law (Chapter #222 of the Laws of 2024). This new law will ensure that this critical habitat is protected by the New York State Bird Conservation Area Program.



Celebrating the Governor's signature on my bill designating the Montauk Point Shoals as a bird conservation area in New York State on August 9th at the Montauk Downs Clubhouse. (Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office)

The CPF - 25 Years Later

Since authoring the legislation creating the Peconic Bay Community Preservation Fund (CPF) in 1998, I have been committed to my role in protecting its integrity during my tenure as your State Assembly representative. I have closely been following and reporting on its tremendous success and have enacted amendments that have strengthened provisions to enable the five east end towns to aggressively pursue new endeavors to protect community character and the quality of our water. This year, the CPF celebrated its 25th Anniversary. In that time, the Peconic Bay Region transfer tax generated over \$2.2 billion in CPF revenue and nearly 13,000 acres of land have been protected. Senator Palumbo and I introduced legislation, which has passed both Houses and will soon be before the Governor for consideration, to better facilitate the operation of the CPF in achieving its goals going forward for the next 25 years, A.9943A/S.9065A.



The Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund's bill signing ceremony on June 22, 1998.

Recognizing East End Ocean Rescue Volunteers

Southampton Village and East Hampton Volunteer Ocean Rescue Squads (SVOR & EHVOR) are on call 24/7 and stand ready to safely and expeditiously respond to open water emergencies despite the elements. To recognize these life-saving services and bolster recruitment and retention efforts, Senator Palumbo and I worked together in passing legislation that sets forth criteria to authorize the Village of Southampton and the Town of East Hampton to adopt local laws to make enrolled members of SVOR and EHVOR eligible for the same real property tax exemption enjoyed by their emergency responder counterparts in the volunteer fire and volunteer ambulance services, A.1353A/S.2158A and A.1640A/S.2159A, respectively. These bills will soon be before the Governor for consideration.



The 72nd Annual West Point Day was celebrated by the New York State Legislature on April 9th. After having the opportunity to participate in this event thirty times, I finally had the privilege of welcoming the first student from my district, CDT Clare Gabriele (Class of 2026) of Southampton, to the Assembly Chamber.



As Chair of the Assembly Local Governments Committee, I worked closely with several organizations that advocate for municipalities across the State. I was proud to be presented with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) 2024 Executive Director's Award for Public Service in recognition of my assistance in supporting efforts to advance their legislative and budget priorities over the years. I proudly accepted the award from NYSAC Executive Director Stephen Acquario and Suffolk County Executive Edward Romaine during their Fall Seminar held at Resorts World Catskill on September 9th. (Photo courtesy of NYSAC)



As the sponsor of the Legislative Resolution declaring May 2024 as Lupus Awareness Month, I was pleased to introduce members of the Lupus Agencies of New York State on the Assembly Floor in recognition of Lupus

Awareness Day on May 8th. This event is near and dear to my heart as these advocates dedicate themselves to improving the quality of life for individuals with Lupus through public outreach, educational programming, resources, and support. My daughter, Josephine (pictured with me on right), is one of the estimated 1.5 million Americans affected by Lupus. Witnessing her navigate through its challenges while attending graduate school at Boston University personally taught me the importance of proactive health advocacy. Her journey to graduation, which led to a career in health and nutrition in New York City, exemplifies resilience and proves that one can live a full and successful life despite the obstacles posed by this illness.



Investing in the East End

During my tenure as your representative to the State Assembly, I have committed over \$12 million to various capital improvement projects that have greatly benefited the East End. Most recently, I have secured funding to assist with the financing of several community enhancement projects including:

North Fork Arts Center's renovation of the Greenport Theatre (\$125,000)

Hampton Bays School District's new playground for the Prekindergarten Program (\$125,000)

Oysterponds School District's community pavilion and outdoor learning center in Orient (\$175,000)

North Sea Fire Department's new playground at Firemen's Memorial Field in Southampton (\$125,000)

South Fork Commuter Connection Capital Project Takes a Step Forward

The South Fork Commuter Connection (SFCC) was first instituted in 2019 and provides commuters with train service between Speonk and Montauk as an alternative to the long traffic delays from the daily “Trade Parade” on County Road 39 and Montauk Highway. The SFCC is supplemented with \$750,000 in state funding that I have secured to provide “last mile” bus service from the train station to the workplace. While highly successful, the existence of a one-track infrastructure only permits two eastbound trains during the morning rush and two westbound trains during the afternoon rush. These limited trips are not convenient for all commuters, and many have expressed the need for more train service.

Last year, as part of its 20-Year Needs Assessment, the MTA unveiled a proposed \$260 million capital project to provide infrastructure improvements including new track, platforms, sidings, and signalization to allow trains to pass each other and accommodate additional trains. After a strong lobby effort by the South Fork Commuter Coalition, comprised of elected officials and other local stakeholders including school, business, and other leaders, the proposed Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) 2025-29 Capital Plan includes this funding to take the next steps in constructing the infrastructure to expand services on the SFCC. If adopted, the Long Island Rail Road will be able to study, plan, design and even begin construction on the necessary improvements and make the SFCC an option for thousands of additional commuters.



On July 1st, I joined the Friends of the Long Pond Greenbelt, the Nature Conservancy, and other local officials in attending the dedication of a new sign for the Long Pond Greenbelt Nature Preserve that will bring greater recognition and public awareness to this treasured ecosystem located right in our own backyard. I have been privileged to be part of a decades long effort to preserve this chain of coastal plain ponds, wetlands, and woodlands that has resulted in the preservation of more than six hundred acres between Sag Harbor and Sagaponack.



On February 26th, my son, Michael, daughter-in-law, Jill, and grandson, Lennon, visited me in Albany and were introduced on the Assembly Floor by Speaker Pro-Tempore, Jeffrion Aubry.



During my tenure, I was honored to support the Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreational Center which has grown to become a cornerstone of the East End Community. On Saturday, July 20th, I attended the 3rd Annual Jazz Soul Celebration and was presented with a plaque by the Executive Director Bonnie Cannon and the students thanking me for my dedication to the mission of The Center.



On July 27th, Senator Palumbo and I presented a proclamation to the Railroad Museum of Long Island to celebrate the 180th Anniversary of the “First Train to Greenport – July 27, 1844” and the unveiling of a William G. Pomeroy Foundation – New York State Historic Marker to commemorate the Historic Greenport Transportation District and the first train to the Greenport Terminal.



Over the years, it has been my privilege to support our local East End organizations that provide vital services to our youth. On September 12th, I attended a community event in Bridgehampton announcing the total of Citarella’s summer fundraising campaign where customers could “Round Up” their purchases at checkout or buy a limited-edition canvas tote bag that featured beautiful artwork by the children. Citarella graciously donated all the proceeds evenly among the seven organizations that make up the East End Fund for Children (Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreational Center, Children’s Museum of the East End, Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center, i-tri, Project Most, The Retreat, and the Southampton Youth Association).



On June 6th, Speaker Carl E. Heastie hosted a farewell celebration for several members leaving the New York State Assembly this year. Pictured left to right, Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre, myself, Assemblymember Helene Weinstein, Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Assemblymember Jeffrion Aubry, Assemblymember Taylor Darling, Assemblymember Patricia Fahy and Assemblymember Kenneth Zebrowski.

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” (Dr. Seuss)

As I end my career as an elected official with nearly three decades representing the 1st Assembly District, I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to those I have had the honor of serving on the East End. I was truly blessed to have formed so many relationships and to have met so many people that have enriched my life over the years. I am excited to spend more valuable time with my family and friends while pursuing new endeavors and look forward to our paths crossing again.



Southampton’s Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal with my wife NancyLynn and grandson, Lennon.



Highlights of the 2024 Legislative Session

3350 Noyac Road, Building B
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

PRSR STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 75

Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

DISTRICT OFFICE:

3350 Noyac Road, Building B, Sag Harbor, New York 11963 • 631-537-2583

ALBANY OFFICE:

837 Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5997

EMAIL:

thielef@nyassembly.gov