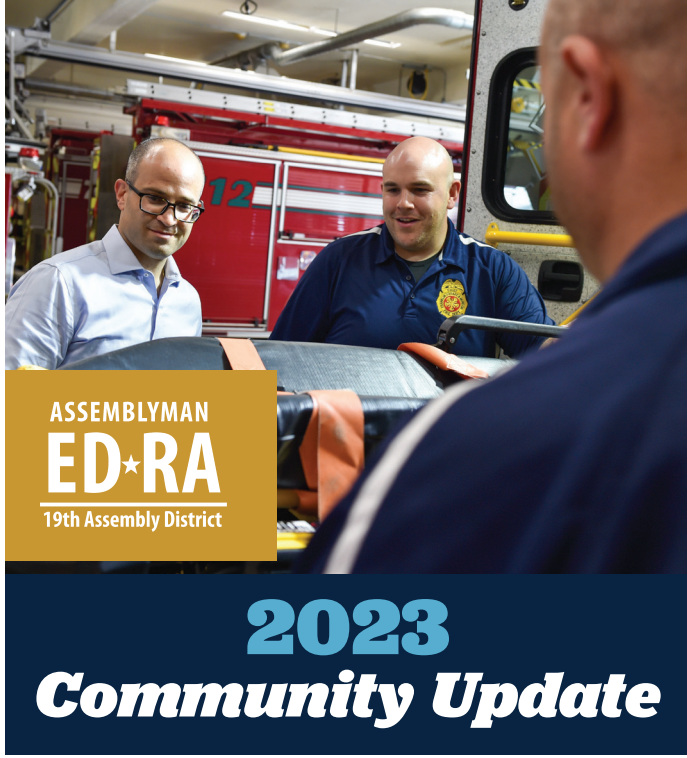




For information on this or any other state issues, please contact Assemblyman Ra at:  
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19th Assembly District

**ED\*RA**  
 ASSEMBLYMAN



ASSEMBLYMAN  
**ED\*RA**  
 19th Assembly District

## 2023 Community Update

New York State Assembly  
 Albany, NY 12248

PRSRT STD.  
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 Permit No. 75

# A Win for Our Local Suburbs!

*The governor wanted to force high rises into our neighborhoods...*

*We said NO!*



The governor's one-size-fits-all housing plan does not take into consideration regional and local communities that don't have the infrastructure to handle the rapid building of multi-story high rises in single-family neighborhoods. Already, Long Islanders are among the highest property taxpayers in the nation and struggling to afford what they have. This is the true "housing crisis" we have in New York. The governor tried to push her devastating housing proposal that could:

- Override municipal decision-making and local zoning decisions through a state housing board
- Cause even more problems for locals such as housing congestion, increased road traffic,

water quality degradation, and a strain on sewage and waste management

- Lead to a real property tax increase on current single-family homes and businesses that have forever made up the fabric of these communities

*We worked to DEFEAT the housing plan and REGAIN local control!*

**...housing compact scrapped in budget talks**

<https://www.politico.com/news/2023/04/20/kathy-hochul-housing-compact-budget-talks-00093172>

# Community Outreach

## Women of Distinction



In early September, I was proud to present the 2023 Women of Distinction awards at Adelphi University's Thomas Dixon Lovely Ballroom to 12 special honorees and one emerging leader in the community. Women of Distinction is an annual event that recognizes the contributions of outstanding women in the 19th Assembly District.

Congratulations to the 2023 Women of Distinction honorees: Kristin Biggin, Naomi Billiris, Jacqueline Burdi Eltringham, Ann Burger, Donna Edwards, Margaret M. Kelly, Rachel Lynch, Louise Rider, Margret Strievski, Dayna Stropkay, RoseAnn Vernice, Nancy Zolezzi and Emerging Leader Olivia Macchio.

Each of these women has contributed to uplifting our community and selflessly helping others in need. I was more than happy to be joined by more than 125 guests this year in recognizing and thanking our honorees.

## Veterans Picnic



In August, veterans from the 19th Assembly District were welcomed to a free patriotic picnic at VFW Post 2718 in Franklin Square where more than 80 guests—including family and friends of our Nassau County veterans—came together for food, conversation and preservation of history. This event allows us to acknowledge their sacrifices, express appreciation and uphold the values of service, unity and respect within our community.

In Albany, I'm proud to support legislation that helps our veterans in multiple ways such as

- **Establishing an MTA half fare rate program for veterans (A.686)**
- **Providing protection for veterans' memorials throughout New York State (A.3658)**

## There Ought to Be a Law



In June, I hosted my fifth annual "There Ought to Be a Law" ceremony. With 724 total entries from 11 local schools, we recognized 41 semi-finalists and were pleased to announce this year's co-winners: Brendan Hoefenkrieg from St. Anne School in Garden City and Erin Kelly from Mineola Middle School, who wrote about the importance of regulating social media use for minors.

Congratulations to Brendan and Erin, who called attention to the complicated and ever-expanding domain of social media. Thank you to all who participated this year for your civic engagement and bright ideas, it gives me great confidence that our local communities are in good hands when these individuals grow up and take on leadership roles.

## Summer Reading Challenge



This summer, in cooperation with the Summer Reading at New York Libraries program, I challenged students to read regularly throughout summer break with the theme "All Together Now," celebrating kindness and friendship. Twenty schools participated this year. Students who completed 40 or more days of reading during July and August were awarded a New York State Excellence in Reading certificate. Congratulations to all who participated in this year's challenge!

Here, I am pictured with students who received their summer reading certificates at Polk Street School (Franklin Square, NY) and principal Gilbert Torossian.

## Video Challenge



Early this summer, I visited H. Frank Carey High School to recognize the winners of my 2023 Video Challenge.

This year's theme was Talk of the Town--Why is your community such a great community? What makes it such a great place to live? The winning video was entitled "On Foot in Franklin Square," submitted by Alyssa Osso and Natalie Osorio. Their video brought a ground-level perspective to explore the areas most treasured by our community such as the Franklin Square Public Library and the Memorial Day parade. Congratulations and thank you to all the students who participated!

**CHECK OUT THE WINNING VIDEO! ▶**

