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NEWS RELEASE

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County Board of Legislators Votes to Save Montrose Testa drafts resolution to support Veterans facility

Tonight the Westchester County Board of Legislators passed a resolution supporting Veterans of our armed forces throughout Westchester and the region. The resolution, drafted and submitted by County Legislator John Testa, calls for the US Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the services at the Veterans Affairs FDR Facility located in Montrose remains in service and dedicated exclusively to veterans. The resolution also calls for the healthcare levels at the facility for veterans be maintained and restored to the levels originally provided on the extensive campus. It also calls on the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to refrain from entering into an enhanced-use lease for the use of 160 of the 172-acre site for private development.

"I am proud to be able to present this resolution to my colleagues in support of our veterans," said Legislator John Testa. "Our veterans need our support to help stop the unconscionable downsizing of the Montrose facility and the plan to take the majority of the facility away to build 400 luxury condo as part of private development. We needed take a stand as a County and I am thankful and appreciative to all my colleagues on the Board for agreeing with me," Testa added.

"I am very pleased that our County Legislators led by Cortlandt's Legislators, John Testa and Bill Burton have passed a resolution to support Cortlandt's long time position that the Franklin Delano Roosevelt V.A. Hospital, Montrose Campus must remain open and not downsized in order to maintain and improve upon the needs, services and most importantly the medical services of the Veterans who have defended our Country throughout the past decades.

Also, it needs to remain open to assist those men and women serving our Country today with their special needs such as rehabilitation, PTSD, TBI and many others. Our Veteran's served us, now we must serve them!

Again, I praise the County Legislators for their support to keep our V.A. Hospital Open. It has been in Cortlandt since 1950 for six decades," remarked Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi.

"This facility is critical to the veterans returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Testa. "They require critical care for not only the physical injuries they suffered in war but the tremendous psychological injuries such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that plagues many of our veterans. We need to expand and restore services at Montrose not downsize and remove them," said Testa.

The board unanimously voted in favor of the resolution, (ATTACHED). Joining Legislator Testa on the resolution were Legislators Burton, Kaplowitz, Maisano and Nonna. Maisano and Nonna are both veterans.