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NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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RICHARD NICOLELLO

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PRESIDING OFFICER

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VETERANS AND SENIOR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI

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CHAIR

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Theodore Roosevelt Building

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1550 Franklin Avenue

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Mineola, New York

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November 9, 2020

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2:48 P.M.

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2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

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4 LEGISLATOR JOHN FERRETTI, JR.

5 Chair

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7 LEGISLATOR WILLIAM GAYLOR, III

8 Vice Chair

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10 LEGISLATOR ROSE WALKER

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12 LEGISLATOR STEVEN RHOADS

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14 LEGISLATOR DEBRA MULE

15 Ranking member

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17 LEGISLATOR ELLEN BIRNBAUM

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19 LEGISLATOR DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON

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2 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Call the
3 Veterans and Senior Affairs Committee to order
4 and ask the clerk to call the roll.

5 MR. PULITZER: Thank you
6 chairman. Veterans and Senior Affairs
7 Committee. Legislator Ellen Birnbaum.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Here.

9 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Delia
10 DeRiggi-Whitton.

11 LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON:
12 Here.

13 MR. PULITZER: Ranking Member
14 Debra Mule.

15 LEGISLATOR MULE: Here.

16 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Steven
17 Rhoads.

18 LEGISLATOR RHOADS: Present.

19 MR. PULITZER: Legislator Rose
20 Marie Walker

21 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

22 MR. PULITZER: Vice Chairman C.
23 William Gaylor the third.

24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Present.

25 MR. PULITZER: Chairman John

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2 Ferretti.

3 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: I'm here.

4 Thank you Mr. Clerk. We have a quorum.

5 There are two items on the agenda
6 today which are clerk items 352-20 and
7 353-20. I will call both together. Clerk
8 item 352-20 is a resolution to provide
9 designated parking for veterans at county
10 buildings or facilities and parks.

11 Item 353-20 is a resolution to
12 establish discounts for the Department of
13 Parks, Recreation and Museums for individuals
14 that hold the New York State lifetime Liberty
15 Pass. These are veterans with a 40 percent or
16 greater service connected disability.

17 May I have a motion. Moved by
18 Legislator Gaylor. Seconded by Legislator
19 Rhoads. The item is before us.

20 Legislator Gaylor would you like to
21 offer a brief statements on the items?

22 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Thank you
23 Chairman Ferretti. So, I'd just like to point
24 out a couple of things first of all. It's
25 Veterans Day and I'd like to recognize all the

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2 veterans in Nassau County who have served this
3 great nation and served our great county. God
4 bless all our veterans first of all.

5 Nassau County has a population with
6 1.3 million people and one of the largest if
7 not the largest veteran populations in the
8 county within the nation. We've got over
9 45,000 veterans in Nassau County and each and
10 every one of them deserves a whole lot of
11 respect and a whole lot of support from us.

12 So, today we are proud to join with
13 my fellow legislators to announce two new
14 pieces of legislation to support those who
15 served our nation. These bills, first of all,
16 the first one creates a veterans-only parking
17 spot in all Nassau County buildings, parks and
18 facilities parking lots. So the new law would
19 require the Office of Public Works to provide
20 at least two spots for veterans-only parking
21 at all county-owned facilities and buildings.

22 The second bill creates discounts
23 at county-run facilities for veteran holders
24 of New York State's lifetime Liberty passes.
25 So the New York State lifetime Liberty passes

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2 provides disabled veterans with free or
3 discounted use of facilities run by the
4 state. Very similar to what the state already
5 offers to our disabled veterans. I'm
6 proposing that we do the same.

7 So, these are just some common
8 sense measures that will help show our
9 appreciation for those who have served our
10 nation and continue in our commitment to
11 honoring their service and sacrifice.

12 So, I would like to thank you
13 chairman for the opportunity to speak, and I
14 hope my fellow colleagues join me in passing
15 these two bills today.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Thank you
17 Legislator Gaylor. Absolutely a great
18 proposal and we thank you for putting it
19 forward. And of course being a distinguished
20 lieutenant colonel in the army yourself we
21 thank you of course for your service as well.

22 As these are legislative items, we
23 do not have anyone here from the
24 administration. However, between now and the
25 full legislature if any member of this

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2 committee or the legislature let's us know if
3 they would like an administrative personnel
4 here we will make those arrangements for the
5 full legislature. In the meantime, do we have
6 any additional debate or discussion?

7 Legislator Birnbaum.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Yes. Maybe
9 I would need somebody from the parks
10 department but as it stands right now a
11 resident needs a Nassau County leisure pass to
12 get into one of our facilities. A veteran
13 could get a veteran's leisure pass which never
14 has to be renewed, one-time fee. So now if
15 we're saying that they need the Liberty pass
16 New York State do they no longer need a Nassau
17 County leisure pass? A veteran leisure pass?

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: That would
19 be correct.

20 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Has this
21 been discussed with the parks department?

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Maybe
23 Legislator Gaylor can address this further.

24 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I couldn't
25 hear fully.

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2 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Would a
3 person no longer need a Nassau County veterans
4 leisure pass if we are accepting the New York
5 State Liberty pass?

6 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: That would be
7 correct.

8 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Have you
9 discussed this with the county parks
10 department? I'm curious in terms of revenue
11 what that brings to the county.

12 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: I don't know
13 the answer to that question.

14 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Because I
15 fought hard a couple of years back about
16 getting the leisure pass for veterans to be a
17 one-time fee and not a renewable pass and that
18 was enacted. Now you're saying they no longer
19 need any leisure pass. So I just wonder what
20 this impact would have.

21 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: The answer
22 is you're correct. The issue for us is not
23 revenue when it comes to honoring and
24 supporting our veterans. Especially those
25 with a 40 percent disability. That is not

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2 something that's been considered and we don't
3 feel it needs to be. This is something we
4 need to do for those who fought for our
5 country.

6 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: The Liberty
7 leisure pass is only for veterans with a 40
8 percent disability?

9 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Correct.

10 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: Disabled
11 veterans.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: So all
13 other veterans this would not apply to only
14 those that have this pass. And the first
15 resolution was just designate two parking
16 spots at every county facility to be for
17 veterans?

18 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Correct.

19 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: That would
20 be have to be Nassau County residents to get
21 into these spots?

22 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Can you
23 repeat that? What was your question.

24 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: And the
25 veteran would have to be a Nassau County

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2 veteran?

3 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: No. It
4 would have to be a veteran. Somebody who
5 served this country.

6 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: To enter
7 one of our parks -- this is not the second
8 part the Liberty passes, this is just the
9 first part. So, the one with the two
10 designated spots, any veteran can show a
11 veteran ID and they could get into the park
12 for free and use the two parking spots?

13 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: We're
14 talking about the parking spots, right?

15 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Yes.

16 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Yes. Does
17 not have to be a Nassau resident, correct.

18 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Okay.

19 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Any further
20 comments from the legislators? Any public
21 comment? Couldn't see you Legislator Walker.

22 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Just to go
23 back to what Legislator Birnbaum was saying.
24 Because possibly that veteran who came in with
25 the state pass -- I forget what it's called

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2 already -- they might not live in Nassau
3 County and say they came to an event in Nassau
4 County they would still obviously be able to
5 come into the park and use one of those
6 spaces. All our other veterans that don't
7 fall in that category they would be coming in
8 with their leisure passes anyway. It's not
9 just parks it's all over the county. So if
10 they were here there would be two spots here
11 for veterans or where ever.

12 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Every
13 single county building, anything related to
14 the county is that what you're saying?

15 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: County
16 facilities, correct.

17 LEGISLATOR GAYLOR: That's
18 correct. For instance, the county clerk
19 already's got two spots designated for
20 veterans.

21 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Our parking
22 same thing? Any parking lot?

23 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Correct.

24 LEGISLATOR BIRNBAUM: Thank you.

25 LEGISLATOR FERRETTI: Did I miss

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2 anybody? Any other legislators? Any public
3 comment? There being none, all those in favor
4 of passing these items please signify by
5 saying aye. All those opposed? The items
6 pass unanimously.

7 There's no other business before
8 this committee. May I have a motion to
9 adjourn. Legislator Walker. Seconded by
10 Legislator Birnbaum. All those in favor
11 signify by saying aye. Committee is now
12 adjourned.

13 (Committee was adjourned at 2:57
14 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, FRANK GRAY, a Notary
Public in and for the State of New
York, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of my stenographic
notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand this 13th day of
November 2020

FRANK GRAY