

**RESOLUTION NO. 917 -2018, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW  
NO. 27 -2018, A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX  
EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED  
IN OPERATION GRAPHIC HAND**

**WHEREAS**, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on September 5, 2018, a proposed local law entitled, "**A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION GRAPHIC HAND**"; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that said local law be enacted in form as follows:

**LOCAL LAW NO. 27-2018, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION  
FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
OPERATION GRAPHIC HAND**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF  
SUFFOLK**, as follows:

**Section 1. Legislative Intent.**

This Legislature hereby finds and determines that in March of 1970, the United States was in the midst of a communications crisis when letter carriers for the U.S. Postal Service voted to strike in major cities throughout the country.

This Legislature determines that New York City was the epicenter of the strike movement, affecting not just local mail delivery but also the routing of correspondence and parcels throughout the nation.

This Legislature also finds and determines that on March 23, 1970, President Nixon issued an executive military order, declaring a state of emergency and mobilizing 25,000 active duty and reserve service members to maintain postal service in New York City. The mission was later designated Operation Graphic Hand.

This Legislature further finds and determines that, while the strike was short in duration, ending on March 25, 1970, the service of the men and women assigned to Operation Graphic Hand ensured that essential elements of mail delivery occurred during this period.

This Legislature finds that New York State recently enacted legislation authorizing counties, in their discretion, to extend real property tax exemptions provided under State law to veterans who were assigned to Operation Graphic Hand.

This Legislature determines that given the County's close proximity to the main site of Operation Graphic Hand, Suffolk County should authorize the property tax exemption for those veterans who helped keep our national postal service operating in a time of crisis.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to authorize the inclusion of veterans of Operation Graphic Hand in the County's real property tax exemption laws.

**Section 2. Amendments.**

Chapter 775 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CODE is hereby amended as follows:

**Chapter 775. Taxation**

\* \* \* \*

Article V. Exemption for Veterans, Spouses and Unremarried Surviving Spouses of Veterans, Gold Star Parents and Cold War Veterans

§ 775-13. Definitions.

\* \* \* \*

VETERAN – a person who:

\* \* \* \*

C. Served as a United States civilian employed by the American Field Service and served overseas under United States Armies and United States Army Groups in World War II during the period of armed conflict December 7, 1941, through May 8, 1945, and who was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions; [or]

D. Served as a United States civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employee of Pan American World Airways or one of its subsidiaries or affiliates and served overseas as a result of Pan American's contract with Air Transport Command or Naval Air Transport Service during the period of armed conflict, December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945, and who was discharged or released therefrom under honorable circumstances[.]; or

E. Served as military personnel in the Reserve component of the United States Armed Forces and deemed on active duty under Executive Order 11519, signed March 23, 1970, 35 Federal Register 5003, dated March 24, 1970 and later designated by the United States Department of Defense as Operation Graphic Hand, and who was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions.

**Section 3. Applicability.**

This law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date of this law.

**Section 4. Severability.**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm,

partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

**Section 5. SEQRA Determination.**

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21), and/or (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

**Section 6. Effective Date.**

This law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

[ ] Brackets denote deletion of existing language  
\_\_\_ Underlining denotes addition of new language

DATED: November 20, 2018

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: December 17, 2018

After a public hearing duly held on December 6, 2018  
Filed with the Secretary of State on January 2, 2019