Immediate Release
September 29, 2016
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Patchogue Chamber Takes on Challenge to Support Suffolk Marathon
Chambers Competing to Register Runners for Race Helping Veterans

(HAUPPAUGE, NY, September 29, 2016)--The Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce has joined the *Chamber Challenge* , a competition to register the most number of participants for the Catholic Health Services second annual Suffolk County Marathon, Half Marathon and 5k on Oct. 30 in Patchogue.

"We welcome this creative and novel approach to assisting Suffolk County veterans by increasing participation in the race," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said. "Our veterans deserve all the support we can give them, and this brings businesses and some good-natured competition to the event."

Issued by the Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers (SCAC) last week, the challenge will result in the awarding of a trophy for the chamber that brings in the most registrants, said Robert Fonti, director and co-chair of SCAC.

"The goal is to support our veterans, the Suffolk Marathon and local businesses that are participating in the race and related activities," said Gina Coletti, director and co-chair of SCAC.

"The Greater Patchogue Chamber is extremely proud to have our community host the Suffolk Marathon supporting our veterans," said David Kennedy, executive director of the Patchogue Chamber of Commerce. "Our Chamber gladly accepts the challenge being made by our partners in the Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers and we certainly expect to win!"

The Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers is a regional business organization comprised of local chambers of commerce and other business alliances. Its mission is to communicate legislative and business agendas to various levels of government and other business groups.

Net proceeds from the race will benefit services to Suffolk County veterans.   Last year's race raised $160,000, which was distributed to 19 organizations serving local veterans.

Runners are coming to Patchogue from 16 states and four countries. The newly added 5k means that there are races for participants of all athletic levels.

A Taste of Long Island festival, featuring Long Island foods, wines and beers, will follow the race. Several bands will provide musical entertainment, and other activities for children are also planned.