



## **Sons of the American Legion / American Legion Auxiliary Annual Walkathon in Support of Our Veterans 2024**

As we prepare to launch the 2024 Annual “They Fought for Us, We Walk For Them “ Walkathon in partnership with the Sons of the American Legion, we are reaching out to every County, Unit and Member of the American Legion Auxiliary to help raise funds for our 13 VA Hospitals and 5 NYS Veterans’ Nursing Homes.

The Annual Walkathon was the vision of Past Detachment Commander Tom Kirk, and to him we are grateful. After a few years, interest seemed to wane.

In 2015-16, during County Visitations, Detachment Commander Joe SantaCroce took the opportunity to reintroduce the importance of this program. We know that not everyone can actually do a Walk, but raising money for this worthwhile cause is still attainable.

For example, here in Kings County, our home, we were unable to organize an actual “Walk.” Undeterred, Joe did a letter writing campaign to garner support from our Legion Family together with our own family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors for this amazing initiative. Joe passed away in 2019, but the passion he put into the Walkathon, and service to our Veterans, lives on. As Joe had done, I reached out, and over the past 3 years, Kings County has donated over \$23,000 to the Walkathon, \$8,620 in 2023 alone.

Please consider letter writing, holding a brunch or dinner, anything to help make the 2024 “They Fought For Us, We Walk For Them” Walkathon a success once again.

Yours in service,  
Marie SantaCroce