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joined with local veterans and advocates in calling on the city to create and fund Veterans' Resource Centers, one-stop information centers for servicemen and women returning from Iraq, Afghanistan or any other overseas assignment.

Monserrate said he is requesting that \$5 million be provided in this year's budget for the creation of the resource centers because, despite the city being home to 300,000 military veterans, with more being added every day, "The city does not provide a single service to veterans," the Corona lawmaker complained.

Monserrate has introduced a bill, Intro 298, requiring the city Director of Veterans Affairs to ensure that at least one Veterans' Resource Center is established and operational in every one of the five boroughs no later than Jan. 1,

2008, or about 19 months from now.

Monserrate said in support of his legislation, "Every day veterans are returning home to find they have to fight another battle just to get needed health care and benefits. Veterans from yesterday's wars and today's conflicts are consistently confused and alienated by the underfunded bureaucratic system they must navigate.

"We can and should do better for the men and women who put their lives on the line for our safety. We are calling on the city to take the first step to honor veterans' service by creating convenient, all-inclusive centers that will ensure veterans get what they need and deserve."

Monserrate explained that the centers would provide free, up-to-date information on all veterans' services available, with knowledgeable staff able and willing to direct and advise veter-

ans on how best to access these services.

Included would be information on housing, health and mental illness, employment training and placement, intensive case management, how to deal with substance abuse and legal disputes and benefits and claims assistance, among other subject areas. ■

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limits access to benefits, at the second seminar. There's a new five-year look-back period on all asset transfers and new home equity provisions may disqualify many seniors from receiving benefits. Plan ahead now to protect your assets!

• Saturday, June 17--At the third seminar, New York City Police Officer Alfonso Rojas will explore the most common scams perpetrated on senior citizens, how

to avoid them and what to do if you've been ripped off.

There is no admission charge and free handouts and refreshments will be available. To RSVP, call Robert Salant, Flushing House director of community relations, at 347-532-3025 or 718-762-3198, or send an email to: rsalant@uam.org.

Established in 1974, Flushing House was one of the first retirement residences to combine independent living for older adults with supportive services right on the premises. The mission of this innovative not-for-profit is: "To provide a safe, enjoyable and affordable retirement experience for our residents". For more information, visit www.flushinghouse.com.

The sky's the limit to Morris Lee, Executive Director of the Council for Airport Opportunity New York (CAO). Created by The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and its airline partners, his agency's mission is to match job-ready candidates with the many positions that support the local aviation industry.

The CAO program offers a wide range of important services, including career orientation, interviewing skills, and job-search techniques. It also provides thousands of internship opportunities to students attending Queens colleges.

People like Morris are important because his work doesn't just benefit the aviation industry, it benefits the community and our neighbors who want their careers to take off.

For more information regarding the CAO program, call 718-526-3322 or visit www.caony.com.

***He doesn't just
build careers.
He builds
communities.***



Morris Lee
Executive Director
CAO New York Program

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