



[home](#) [newspapers](#) [features](#) [opinion](#) [sports](#) [calendar](#) [classifieds](#) [homes](#) [about us](#) [advertisi](#)

He leads by caring and his example is catching

Fred Sganga of the LI State Veterans Home is our Man of the Year in Medicine

By Lee Lutz

January 02, 2006 | 11:18 AM

Suffolk County veterans have a huge friend and great advocate in Fred Sganga, executive director of the Long Island State Veterans Home (LISVH) in Stony Brook.

"Fred is a marvel," said Stony Brook University (SBU) President Shirley Strum Kenny. "If every nursing home were as good as that nursing home the world would be a better place." Kenny recruited Sganga in a nationwide search for a new director in 2001.

The LISVH is part of SBU, affiliated with Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) and located on the campus southeast of the hospital. The 350-bed facility, with its 50-person adult day care program, is a model for such facilities, exemplified by the fact that there is a 99 percent occupancy rate, according to Sganga.

"Fred is cheerful, pleasant and personable," said Kenny, adding that his "warmth and affection pervades the place." Sganga's professional background and concurrent activities speak to the serious approach he takes to his chosen field. He came to Long Island from the Bergen [New Jersey] Regional Medical Center, where he served as the president and CEO. Prior to his service there, Sganga worked in physician practice management and in the administration of several medical centers in Rockville Centre and New York City.

"Fred Sganga represents everything good about people in public service," said state Senator John Flanagan (R-Northport), who has worked closely with the LISVH and Sganga for several years. "He is a passionate advocate for his profession." Flanagan credits the good working relationship Sganga has promoted with his staff. "Fred and his staff plan ahead well," Flanagan said, making projects and services run smoothly.

Perhaps the person who works closest with Sganga is Jonathan Spier, whose official title is administrator in training since he is serving an apprenticeship toward achieving his goal of being licensed himself as a nursing home administrator. Spier serves as the facility's public relations officer and is involved in nearly every aspect of the home's administration.

"I was finishing my master's in health administration at Hofstra when I met Fred," Spier said. Although he was not at the time directing his efforts toward nursing home administration, Spier was so impressed with Sganga, who serves as an adjunct professor at Hofstra as well as an

