

Staten Island Advance

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Partial Victory

Island veterans in need of hospitalization aren't being left out in the cold, thanks to some quick and alert action by the county American Legion and Congressman James J. Murphy.

Thirty beds have been set aside in the U. S. Marine Hospital in Clifton for Veterans Administration patients.

While service-connected cases will be given priority, emergency non-service-connected ailments will also be treated. The number of cases is expected to keep the beds fully occupied. And if they're not, Marine Hospital may have clearance from the VA to use them for other patients.

This victory for Island servicemen, relatively minor as it is, was accomplished in Washington by Congressman Murphy at the request of the county Legion.

It's a small concession for the VA to make, with Halloran VA Hospital closing down. But it's important because it halts emergency trips to New Jersey or other parts of the city for veterans in need of medical or surgical care.

This is the same number of beds the VA had in Clifton while Halloran was still operating. Then they, augmented service, but now they're the only thing available to Staten Island's ex-GI's.

With facilities still so limited, veterans must continue checking to make sure that the need is being met.