

VETERANS' RESOURCES

Dear friends and neighbors,

As someone who served for four years on Active-Duty and for three years in the Reserves as a Marine Corps Officer I know the importance of veterans' issues in Connecticut. With that in mind, I hope you find this information about Connecticut veterans' resources helpful. I also provided some brief information about veterans' issues that I am working on this session.

Sincerely,

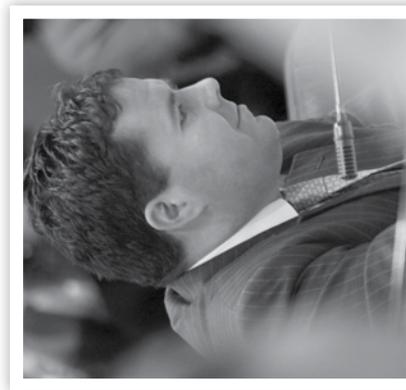


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THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs has numerous programs and services available for veterans as well as links to various veterans' websites, benefit information, job and career services, the State Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill and community activities specific to veterans. To learn more, please visit their website at www.ct.gov/ctva or call 860-616-3600.

THE CT MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM (MSP)

This 24/7 hotline connects callers with mental health services and programs sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. (866) 251-2913. <http://1.usa.gov/1OyOzZo>

RESTORING FULL MILITARY HONORS FOR VETERANS' FUNERALS

I am upset about the recent proposal to cut the Military Honors Program for Veteran's Funerals from the budget. This is a progressive program that allows local veterans organizations to participate in firing details for veterans' funerals. I will continue my strong advocacy against this budgetary cut.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT TASK FORCE

This year I submitted HB 6370 that would form a Task Force to examine whether Connecticut should form a Veterans Treatment Court. Over twenty states have these courts, and these courts have been extremely effective in mitigating minor crimes committed by veterans. This Task Force would look at what Connecticut is doing currently to help veterans within the criminal court system and how to improve it.

ELIMINATING STATE TAXES ON MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

Both New York and Massachusetts exempt taxes on military retirement pensions. Connecticut taxes these pensions, and that is wrong. I co-sponsored SB 520 so that all military retirement pensions would be tax exempt in Connecticut. Too many Connecticut veterans are retiring in other states due to this problem, and it needs to stop.

STATE BENEFITS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

A \$1,500 reduction of a property's assessed value for tax purposes (real estate or automobile) is available for veterans who have ninety days of wartime service, including Merchant Marines who served during WWII. Veterans, and surviving spouses, below a certain income level and/or disabled may be eligible for additional property tax exemptions. Contact your municipality's tax assessor's office for specific details.

TUITION WAIVERS

Veterans may attend Connecticut public colleges, universities and the 12 community technical- colleges tuition free. To be eligible for tuition benefits, a veteran must be honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces, have 90 days active military duty during war, must have resided in Connecticut for at least one year upon enrolling and admitted to a degree program. For more information, contact the Veterans' Services or Financial Aid/Bursar's Office of the school you are interested in attending.

- University of Connecticut:
www.veterans.uconn.edu



- Connecticut State University System:
www.ct.edu/students/veterans



- Connecticut Community Colleges:
www.ct.edu

