



Deputy Speaker Buddy Altobello visits with Madison Johnson & E.J. Altobello in the House Chamber.

## Growing the State's Economy

I am pleased to announce passage of a comprehensive jobs bill that will boost Connecticut's ability to grow and retain jobs. Components of the jobs bill include:

- Consolidating and increasing the tax credit for new hires
- Building innovation centers in key cities and investing in innovative ventures
- Cutting the business entity tax
- Remediating old industrial sites/brownfields
- Workforce development, education and training
- Allowing the Airport Authority to designate new Development Zones
- Investments in roads and bridges
- Replenishing the Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA)
- Main Street commercial centers improvement initiative

## Job Resources

**CT WORKS CAREER CENTERS** – A regional Career Center is located in Meriden provides guidance and services to those seeking employment. 203-238-6148

**CT JOB CENTRAL** – An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resumes and access various employment-related information. [www.jobcentral.org/ct](http://www.jobcentral.org/ct)

**HELP FOR UNEMPLOYED** – For an in-depth explanation of unemployment insurance and benefits call TeleBenefits in Meriden at 860-344-2993.

The United Way of Connecticut has a helpful informational packet: "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It covers unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and job searches. Contact my office at 1-800-842-8267 for a copy or visit their website at [www.211ct.org/search/unemployment.pdf](http://www.211ct.org/search/unemployment.pdf).



State Representative | Deputy Speaker

# Emil "Buddy" Altobello

Proudly Serving Meriden | 82<sup>nd</sup> District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Altobello](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Altobello)

Legislative Office Building  
Room 4015  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Altobello](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Altobello)

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# CAPITOL NEWS 2012

Photo by Deputy Speaker Buddy Altobello.

State Representative | Deputy Speaker

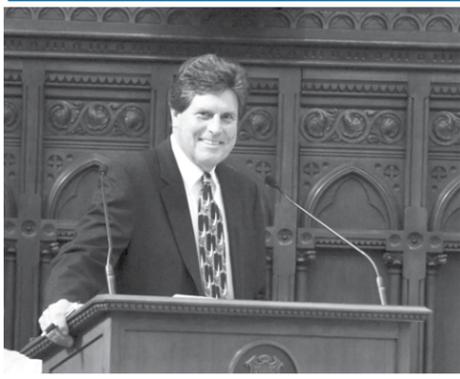
# Emil "Buddy" Altobello

Proudly Serving Meriden's 82<sup>nd</sup> District

State Representative

# Emil “Buddy” Altobello

Proudly Serving Meriden | 82<sup>nd</sup> District



Rep. Altobello serving in the role of House Speaker during a Session of the House of Representatives.

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Altobello](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Altobello)

## Dear Neighbor,

The 2012 session of the General Assembly was “a truly historic session,” and brought exciting changes to education, elections, utility storm response and the state’s blue laws.

One of the hallmarks of the 2012 session was the passage of a fiscal year 2013 budget adjustment bill that did not raise taxes. A year ago, we dealt with a shortfall in excess of \$3 billion – 15 percent of our total budget. This year, the House passed a budget adjustment that keeps appropriations under the state’s spending cap and continues our investments in education and job growth.

I hope this report is informative. I’m happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for our families.

Best wishes,

*Buddy*

## Education Reform Package Good For Meriden Meriden Will Receive Additional Funding

A sweeping education reform package signed into law by Governor Dannel P. Malloy takes a number of much needed steps to turn around Connecticut’s lowest-performing schools, and provides Meriden with new funding for educational programs.

Meriden will get \$1,778,000 more for schools, and is eligible for new school-based health centers and early education slots too. This gives our children the support they need—and they deserve. This historic law will improve schools around the state, while protecting teachers’ rights, and it makes an important dent in the Achievement Gap.



Rep. Altobello with Peter Piech and Kyle Zawacki, Cox Scholarship recipients from Meriden.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

Utility companies were not prepared for a major storm like Hurricane Irene which hit Meriden and much of Connecticut really hard. I helped pass legislation dealing with emergency preparedness and response. The bill includes:

- Emergency plans every two years.
- Utility performance standards.
- Evaluation of utility performance after storms.
- Micro-grid pilot program to preserve power in critical areas.
- Procedures for expediting road clearing.
- Promoting undergrounding of power lines.

## Grandparents’ Visitation Rights

Grandparents can seek visitation rights by providing specific and good-faith allegations that (1) a parent-like relationship with the grandchild exists and (2) the grandchild will suffer real and substantial harm if the visitation is denied. In the end, it is important that decisions are made in a child’s best interests.

## Elderly Rental Rebate Program

We have extended from four to six months the period for submitting applications under the rental rebate program for the elderly and totally disabled. Renters can now apply from April 1st through October 1st at the Meriden Senior Center. Call 203-237-0066 for more information.



Deputy Speaker Altobello presents citation to Meriden Veteran Ron Perry upon his induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

## Proudly Supporting Our Veterans

This session we worked on legislation to assist veterans and members of our Armed Forces ensuring that those who protect our freedoms are never forgotten.

### Veterans Job Match

Veterans Job Match is a new program offering unemployed veterans with manufacturing experience the opportunity to be matched with manufacturing or trade businesses looking for workers. To learn more and apply, please visit: [www.ctdol.state.ct.us/VetJobMatch.htm](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/VetJobMatch.htm). Questions? Contact Victoria Satagaj at [vsatagaj@ccat.us](mailto:vsatagaj@ccat.us) or 1.860.282.4908.

### Disabled Veteran Parks Pass

Lifetime park passes providing free admission to all state parks and forests are available free of charge to Connecticut veterans with a service connected disability. Veterans may apply by sending a photocopy of their current Connecticut driver’s license or other legal proof of residency, and Veterans Administration (VA) Card or VA benefits letter indicating the service connected disability to: DEEP Disabled Veteran Pass, State Parks Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

### Veterans History Project

Would you like to participate in the Veterans History Project by having your oral history recorded and archived? As an archive partner with the Library of Congress, Central CT State University assists in preserving the firsthand accounts of history for future generations from the men and women who witnessed and lived it. For more information please call 860 832-2976 or check out the Project’s website at [www.ccsu.edu/vhp](http://www.ccsu.edu/vhp).

## Medicare Savings Program

We ensured that thousands of seniors and people with disabilities can continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles. The legislation, which passed unanimously, raises the income limit for the MSP in order to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1. It would have been a tragic irony if a welcome increase in Social Security benefits caused Connecticut residents to become ineligible for these Medicare benefits.

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