

VETERANS LEGISLATION

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The legislature is committed to veterans. We are thankful and inspired by the service and sacrifice of servicemen and servicewomen. That is why veteran issues are a top priority each legislative session.

I hope you find this information about veteran resources and the results of the legislation we have passed helpful. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me anytime.

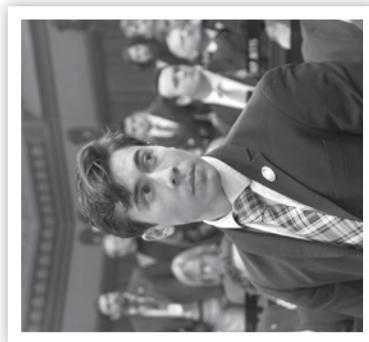
Sincerely,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

David Arconti Jr.

REPRESENTING DANBURY | 109TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

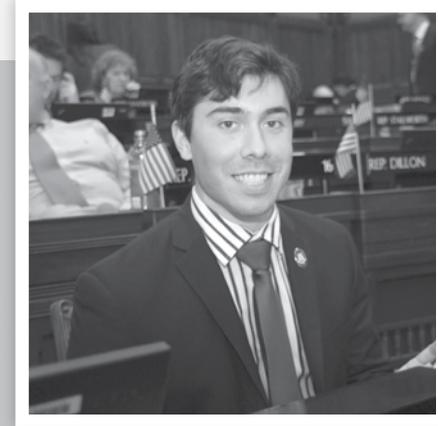


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NEW LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2015

ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT WOMEN VETERANS' PROGRAM

This year, we passed legislation recognizing the important sacrifices women veterans have made while defending our country. The Department of Veterans' Affairs is now required to conduct outreach regarding benefits and services available for women veterans while taking into account the needs and obstacles women face. The program will submit an annual report to the legislature recommending new initiatives and detailing which benefits and services would be best for women veterans. It is vital that we protect those who protect us and this legislation is a good way to honor these important women.

IMPROVING RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AT THE VETERANS' HOME IN ROCKY HILL

Since 1940, the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill has served our vets in need with a range of rehabilitative, medical, and vocational services. A new law implements several recommendations from a 2014 study on the Home including:

- Residents will have two seats on the Board of Trustees.
- A process will be developed for residents to file complaints.
- No veteran will go without housing should something happen to the Home.
- A plan will be submitted to the General Assembly to implement other recommendations— including more transitional housing and on-campus work programs, and greater privacy for residents.

SERVICES AT STATE COLLEGES

The Operation Academic Support for Incoming Service Members (OASIS) program helps veterans of the Armed Services receive grants and scholarships to purchase items such as pens, notebooks, or flash drives when enrolling in educational programs. A new law calls for a study on how Connecticut's colleges and universities could implement the best services and practices into the veterans OASIS program. The goal is to help spread awareness and teach veterans about the benefits and services available to them.

Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council

Incarcerated veterans are in need of special services when they are released from prison. This year, the legislature created an Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council to identify the needs of these veterans, and make recommendations on the best way to successfully reintegrate them into our communities. The council will also submit a yearly report consisting of their goals and recommendations to the Connecticut General Assembly's Veterans' Affairs Committee beginning January 15, 2016.

Military Retirement Pay

Military retirement pay is now 100% exempt from the state income tax.

Services for Danbury Veterans

DANBURY VA COUNSELING: 203-790-4000

DANBURY VETERAN'S ADVISORY CENTER: 203-797-4620

VETERANS BENEFITS INFOLINE: 866-928-8387

US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 800-827-1000

WEST HAVEN VA HOSPITAL: 203-932-5711

CT OFFICE FOR VETERAN'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: 860-263-6514

CT MILITARY SUPPORT COUNSELING: 866-251-2913

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE: 888-784-2433

CT DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 860-616-3600 or www.ct.gov/ctva