



## Supporting our Veterans

It comes naturally to me. As a veteran of Vietnam-era service in the US Navy, I'm very interested in making things easier and better for my fellow veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families. This year I was especially concerned about the impact of the economy on those who are serving and have served our nation. I've sent you this special newsletter to tell you about how I worked with my colleagues to help them out. If you want more information about any of these new laws, other veteran-related legislation, or anything else, please contact me.

Bob Godfrey  
Bob.Godfrey@cga.ct.gov

Capitol: 860.842.1902

Legislative Office Building, Room 4107  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



*the House Democrats of Connecticut*

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

# BOB GODFREY

**State Representative | Deputy Speaker**

Representing Danbury

110<sup>th</sup> House District

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# State Representative **BOB GODFREY**

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## **LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND HONORING OUR VETERANS**

### **Property Tax Exemption**

Military veterans have long enjoyed a \$1,500 exemption on our local property taxes. Now veterans who have been recognized by the VA as having a disability will be eligible for an additional \$1,500 exemption. They'll only have to verify their status with the tax assessor once, rather than every year, unless their status changes. (PA 08-121)

### **Military Family Relief Fund**

This fund provides grants for essential and household goods and services to military families experiencing hardship because of their loved one's active duty military service. We've made immediate relatives of Connecticut-domiciled armed forces members, including Connecticut National Guard members, who are not on active duty eligible to receive benefits from the Military Family Relief Fund. Under prior law, only immediate relatives of service members on active duty qualified. (PA 09-163)

### **College Tuition Waiver**

National Guard members, who are part-time students, in the Connecticut State University System are now eligible for a tuition waiver. If tuition exceeds the amount of benefits under the new G.I. Bill, the college will waive the remainder. (PA 08-57)

### **Gravestones and Flags**

In past years, there were occasional conflicts when the placing of flags at veterans' graves interfered with the maintenance and mowing of cemeteries. Paying respect to those who have sacrificed their lives for our country should not be hindered in any way, so there are no longer restrictions on the placement of U.S. flags on veterans' graves from the Saturday before Memorial Day until the Monday after July 4<sup>th</sup>. (PA 09-5)

### **Wartime Service Medals**

These medals are awarded to veterans who were called into service as a Connecticut resident. Medals may now be awarded posthumously to veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000. (PA 05-3)

### **Useful Numbers**

CT Veterans' Affairs - Infoline	866.928.8387
U.S. Veterans' Affairs - Infoline	800.827.1000
VA Healthcare - Newington	860.666.6951
Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund	800.491.4941
Social Services Programs for Vets	860.424.5024
Dept. of Labor Programs for Vets	860.263.6514
CT Military Support Counseling	866.251.2913
National Suicide Support	888.784.2433

*For more information on these bills or a complete report on Acts Affecting Veterans:*



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