



Representative Hennessy at the Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony with House Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz and Senator Andres Ayala.

Dear Neighbor:

The 2013 legislative session presented challenges and important issues that we swiftly addressed in an effort to keep moving our state forward. I am pleased to have joined with my Bridgeport colleagues in the General Assembly as we worked together to make our community stronger and safer.

I am proud of our efforts to deliver a balanced budget that maintained over \$206 million in state funding for our city while protecting investments in education, job growth and consumer protection.

This report highlights some of the measures we passed to help individuals, families and businesses thrive in Connecticut. I am hopeful that you find this newsletter helpful and useful.

It is my pleasure to serve you. As always, I am available to answer or discuss any questions or concerns facing our state.

Sincerely,

Jack Hennessy
State Representative

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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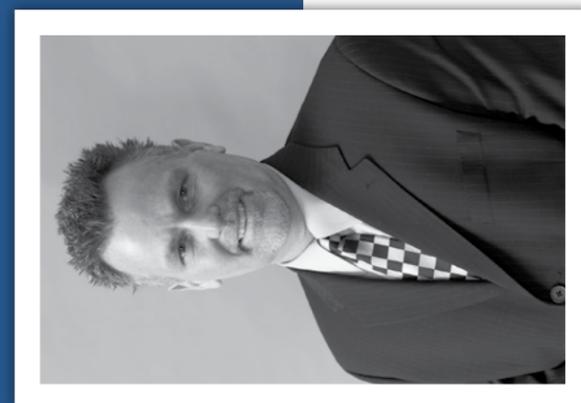
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The military taught me the value of service to my state and nation. My training as an Army Ranger taught me to fight for those that can't fight for themselves.

Fighting against corruption is important to me and the reason why, I believe, you elected me to represent you as your state representative here in Bridgeport.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST BILL

I want to thank everyone who called, wrote letters, and e-mails supporting this bill.

In this last legislative session, I introduced **HB 5724, AN ACT PROHIBITING MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES FROM SERVING ON CERTAIN MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES.**

The intent of HB 5724 was to close a loophole in state statute that allows municipalities to overlook provisions in their city charters that prohibit municipal employees from serving on boards that handle municipal finances. It is my belief that, for the city of Bridgeport to move forward and leave its tarnished reputation in the past, we need to address such flagrant conflicts of interest.

Although the bill ultimately did not become law, I want you to know that I am committed to ethics reform in our community and plan to re-introduce the bill again next session.

THE RETURN OF A GIFT TO A PERSON IN NEED OF LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES

Medicaid penalty periods are imposed on individuals residing in nursing homes when there is an inappropriately transferred asset discovered during the eligibility process. The penalty period creates a length of time when Medicaid will not pay for nursing home services. This law requires the Commissioner of Social Services to reduce the penalty period if a part of the transferred assets is returned to the individual. Current law requires a return of all transferred assets before the department adjusts the penalty period. This adjustment encourages family members to contribute to the long-term care system when some of the transferred assets are available for use.

SALUTING OUR VETERANS

Providing a better life to those who protect us

As chair of the Veterans Committee, I was proud to champion legislation to help provide access to the benefits the state provides to veterans and to create a level playing field for them to succeed.

Veterans returning from foreign engagements need to know that we appreciate what they do for us and that means passing legislation that helps them and their families.

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TRAINING AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

While serving our country here and abroad, servicemen and women receive countless hours of training in the various branches of the military, gaining valuable experience and skills that can be applied to secure employment, and these skills should be recognized. This legislation establishes a task force that will be responsible for reviewing military occupational specialty training experience to determine if any such training is equivalent to that required for state licensing purposes. Veterans of any age, regardless of the job they performed in the military, offer a multitude of transferable skills that many employers are seeking – leadership, decision-making, a strong work ethic, and integrity. Our veterans have served their country well and it is only fitting that we should assist them whenever and however we are able.



RESOURCE SERVICE CONTACT PERSON

Streamlining access to programs and assistance for our veterans was one of our priorities this session. A new law requires cities and towns that do not have one to appoint a town employee to serve as a veteran's service contact who acts as an ombudsman who can guide veterans to the appropriate local, state or federal resources.



AGING IN PLACE

The legislature continues its commitment to our senior citizens - I voted to help Connecticut's model of Aging in Place become law. By January 1, 2014, state resources will be available that facilitate seniors remaining in their homes and the creation of livable communities.

The Commission on Aging will establish a website that acts as a single portal for information on nationwide initiatives. Keeping our seniors in their homes is paramount to their wellbeing and saves money.

OX BROOK FLOOD CONTROL

After securing \$250,000 of bond funding for the Ox Brook Flood Control Project last year, I am pleased to announce the Bridgeport City Council on October 7, 2013 voted unanimously to use the money to begin the long awaited flood control plan. The city will enter into contract with an engineering firm to acquire the necessary permits and create a design for a new earthen dam in Elton Rogers Park that will have the capacity to hold back many millions of gallons of floodwater.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

TO REACH MANY STATE SERVICES, CALL INFOLINE **211**

Area Agency on Aging 800.994.9422

ConnPACE 800.423.5026

Consumer Protection 800.842.2649

CT Veterans Affairs 860.529.2571

Healthcare Advocate 866.466.4446