



## Supporting Our Veterans

This year much of our attention was focused on the current economic situation and its impact on our state budget, however, we did not forget our veterans. We passed a number of bills with full bi-partisan support making things easier for veterans, active personnel, and their families. I have outlined only a few of the bills passed this year. If you would like to learn more about any of these bills, other veteran-related bills, or any other matter, please contact me.



*the House Democrats of Connecticut*

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

# SUSAN JOHNSON

## State Representative

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## LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND HONORING OUR VETERANS

### Property Tax Exemption

Annual proof of disability is no longer required to claim the disabled veterans' property tax exemption. Regardless of age or disability rating, any veteran who submits initial proof to the town assessor must only do so again if the VA modifies the rating.

### Military Family Relief Fund

The Military Department uses grants from this fund to pay for essential personal or household goods or services, if paying for them is a hardship because of a member's service. Immediate relatives of armed forces members living in-state are now eligible, regardless of whether the service member is active-duty or not.

### 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.

### Gravestones and Flags

In past years, there had been occasional conflicts when the placing of flags at veteran's graves had interfered with the maintenance and mowing of cemeteries. Paying respect to those who sacrificed their lives for our country should not be hindered in any way, so there can be no 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>.

### Cell Phone Ban

Armed Forces members may now use their hand-held mobile phones while driving on a highway, if they are in a military vehicle performing official job duties.

### 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.

### Useful Numbers

CT Veterans' Affairs - Benefits	866.928.8387
U.S. Veterans' Affairs - Infoline	800.827.1000
VA Healthcare	800.827.1000
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



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