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 bipartisan 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.

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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

Under current law immediate relatives of Connecticut active duty members of the armed forces, including the National Guard, are eligible to receive assistance for essential goods and services from the fund. Now, immediate relatives of non-active duty service members are eligible for assistance for such things as household repairs, medical bills, and transportation.

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 veterans' graves had 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 4th.

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. Call the Connecticut Veteran's Affairs infoline at 866-928-8387 for more information.

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
Dept. of Labor DVOP Disabled Veteran Outreach Program	860-256-3711

For more information on these bills or other issues please contact:

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