



Dear Neighbor:

The Newtown tragedy has weighed heavily over the hearts and minds of the country. The legislature was very much affected by that horrible event which also set the tone for much of what we worked on this year.

The Federal budget crisis resulted in spending reductions that impacted businesses, individuals and our economy. The state moved to support local companies and manufacturing by re-establishing the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

We need to focus on how to diversify the state's defense businesses or help them switch to making consumer products, and at the same time make sure that the state's colleges and universities are preparing students for jobs in the manufacturing sector.

We also passed legislation that helps homeowners get the help they need when financial hardship threatens and they're facing foreclosure.

I am proud to have worked on a budget that obtained **\$49,704,495** in state funding for Bristol, including funding for education and vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

These are just some of the laws we passed to help individuals, families, and businesses thrive in Connecticut. I hope this report is informative, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have about issues facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for all of us.

Sincerely,



**Let's Keep In Touch**

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Frank N. Nicastro Sr.**

SERVING BRISTOL/FORESTVILLE | 79TH DISTRICT

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**CAPITOL NEWS**

**2013**

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# FRANK N. NICASTRO SR.

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**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:**

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## JOB GROWTH

Both the House and the Senate unanimously supported the passage of a bill to encourage Connecticut manufacturers to recruit, hire and train apprentices. We recognize both the prominent role of manufacturing in the state's economy and the need to prepare Connecticut's workforce for manufacturing jobs in the future.

## MINIMUM WAGE

I cosponsored and voted in favor of increasing the minimum fair wage to \$9 per hour over the next two years. It is reasonable that we provide hard working people in this state with a living wage. By increasing the minimum wage the legislature is helping low wage earners and boosting local economies.

### STATE AID TO BRISTOL: FISCAL YEAR 2014

Education Cost Sharing	\$44,153,337
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$84,624
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$522,481
Pequot/Mohegan Revenue Sharing	\$589,279
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$478,962
Town Aid Roads	\$666,200
Adult Education	\$269,148
DECD PILOT	\$61,666
MRSA Payments	\$2,338,949
Public School Transportation	\$399,451
Non-Public School Transportation	\$140,398
<b>Total State Funds to Bristol</b>	<b>\$49,704,495</b>
Increased from 2013	<b>\$1,069,136</b>



Rep. Nicastro recognizes Ashley Bielert, recipient of the CHET Advance Scholarship



Rep. Nicastro receiving Service to Youth Award from The Connecticut Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs



A new memorial to honor all Connecticut Veterans is announced by Maj. Gen. Martin, Rep. Frank Nicastro and Gov. Malloy

## PROHIBITING PRICE GOUGING DURING SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

When catastrophic weather events hit our state, it is important that people have access to the goods and services necessary to restore normality. This law extends the ban on excessive price increases to goods and services sold during any severe weather emergency, as declared by the governor. During one of these events no one can sell or offer to sell a good or service for an "unconscionably excessive price."

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has found that approximately one-third of Connecticut children in kindergarten through third grade are overweight or obese, and approximately one out of every seven children are obese. This session the legislature passed a law creating a childhood obesity task force in order to study the effects of obesity on children's health. The law also takes steps to combat childhood obesity by requiring that schools provide elementary school students with at least 20 minutes of physical exercise in each regular school day. In addition, local school boards of education must adopt policies that do not take away physical exercise from elementary school students or discipline students with physical exercise in grades K-12.

## CONDOMINIUM LAWS REVISIONS

This law improves condominium board and association transparency and adds protections for condominium unit owners. It makes community association managers subject to disciplinary action for violations of the Common Interest Ownership Act (CIOA) or Condominium Act. It also requires a condominium board to post meeting agendas at least 48 hours prior to a meeting if they set a meeting schedule, rather than notifying condominium owners individually.

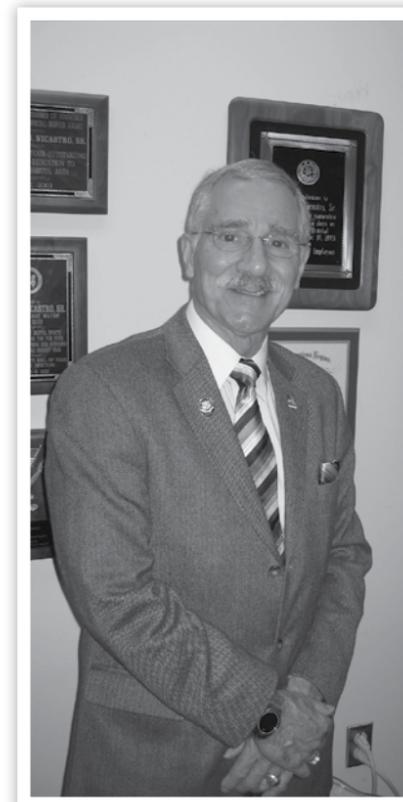
## GMO LABELING

I'm very pleased we now have Genetically Modified Foods labeling legislation that is a first-in-the-nation law. This is a significant step forward in the fight to know what is in the food we eat and what we feed our families. In the absence of federal action, Connecticut has once again taken the lead on an important public health issue. The labeling requirement takes effect once similar laws are enacted in four states, including at least one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population of 20 million or more.

## ROAD SAFETY

This session we passed a number of laws that will make our roads safer. I am particularly happy to see a new law increasing the penalty for failure to remove ice or snow from a motor vehicle. Fines will start at \$75 and increase if property damage results. No one likes commuting during our New England winters and especially when you're driving into snow flying off of other cars.

Another bill that I am happy to see passed is An Act Concerning Distracted Driving and Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Statutes. With this new law we will be able to crack down on distracted driving and increase fines for using a hand-held cell phone or other electronic device while driving. We will also benefit from the creation of a task force to study prevention of distracted driving.



## HONORARY DIPLOMAS FOR VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

Many Connecticut veterans put their own lives on hold to serve our country during times of war. This year the state legislature continued a tradition of recognizing these individuals by allowing local and regional school boards to award high school diplomas to Vietnam Era veterans who left high school for military service before graduating. The act covers honorably or generally discharged veterans and reservists who served actively from February 28, 1961 to July 1, 1975 including the Connecticut National Guard performing certain homeland security missions.