



Supporting Our Veterans

This year much of our attention was focused on our economic situation and its impact on our state budget. However, we did not forget our veterans. I am proud that we passed a number of bills making things easier for veterans, active personnel and their families. I have outlined only a few of the bills passed this year. Please don't hesitate to contact me at home or at the capitol if you would like to learn more about any of these bills or any other matter I can help you with.



the House Democrats of Connecticut

www.housedems.ct.gov/Orange

LINDA ORANGE

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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 were occasional conflicts when the placing of flags at veteran's graves 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 4th.

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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