



Lonnie and Rep. Widlitz celebrating civics at the Capitol with Tisko Fourth Graders

## Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The Achievement gap among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around low achieving schools, increase our chances for more federal dollars and improve our vocational schools with Public Act 10-111, which:

- » Strengthens Connecticut's eligibility for "Race to the Top" education millions
- » Ties teacher evaluations to multiple indicators for student growth
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Increases parent involvement
- » Requires school boards to create parent-based school governance councils in schools with high levels of low achievers
- » Adds manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education criteria



Lonnie visiting young learners at the Neighborhood Music School

State Representative  
**Lonnie Reed**

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State Representative

# Lonnie Reed

Proudly Serving Branford | 102<sup>nd</sup> District

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**CT Clean Energy Fund (CCEF)**

Thinking of making your home more energy efficient? Check out CCEF: [www.ctcleanenergy.com](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com)



State Representative

# Lonnie Reed



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## CAPITOL NEWS 2010



*Dear Neighbors,*

*As you know, because you are living it, we continue to face extraordinary economic challenges.*

*My focus for the 2010 session was to grow jobs and promote businesses, small and large. I was appointed to three special committees to work on those objectives. We wrote bills to stimulate investment, fast track permitting and reduce crippling energy costs. I am proud that our efforts produced some successful, landmark legislation that won bi-partisan support and the governor's signature.*

*I also worked on bills to spur more regional cooperation, a must if we are to lay the groundwork for real property tax reform. We achieved bi-partisan support for new laws to help towns share the costs of healthcare, school transportation and other expensive obligations.*

*There is still much to be done. Government must be made more efficient, effective and affordable. It is also our duty to protect our friends and neighbors in need.*

*This session in Hartford, good things happened when we worked together to accomplish critical goals. We need to build on this promising beginning to hasten our recovery and secure our bright future.*

*I hope you find these newsletter highlights helpful and informative.*

*Again, my special thanks to so many of you who communicated with me, sharing your thoughts, concerns and expertise on complicated issues. I am most grateful for your valuable input. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you in Hartford.*

Sincerely,

*Lonnie Reed*

# Lonnie Reed

Proudly Serving Branford | 102<sup>nd</sup> District



Memorial Day Parade with Lonnie, U.S. Navy Veteran Unk DaRos and Army Veteran Vin Giordano

## Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving them money and other taxpayers too (PA 10-39)
- » Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years of service can now apply for “retirement promotions” and move up one grade in rank (PA 10-15)
- » Active duty service members out of state will get a 30 day extension to renew their expired driver’s license when they return to Connecticut (PA 10-16)
- » March 30th is now the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day (PA 10-40)
- » Veterans can now use their military service and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses (PA 10-105)
- » I fought to simplify the licensing process so “Take a Vet Fishing” and other non-profits can organize more outings for groups of disabled veterans



Lonnie with veterans enjoying their “Take A Vet Fishing” outing organized by First Congregational Church volunteers



Lonnie, Rep. Heinrich and Rep. Widlitz are joined by Terry Elton, Tim Snyder and Unk DaRos at the Capitol for a public hearing to promote more local control over the siting of cell towers. We formed a strong bipartisan coalition on the statewide issue and will continue our work next session.

## CREATING JOBS for CONNECTICUT My Top Priority

We passed a significant new jobs bill (PA 10-75) designed to speed Connecticut’s economic recovery with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and non-profits
- » Student loan reimbursement and training grants for education in new and emerging careers.
- » Income tax credits for investments in new and emerging technology businesses
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies, and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month, per new employee
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » A Community-Technical College advisory board to assess the training needs of those unemployed

## Helping Business, Construction and Housing to Recover

We worked with the governor’s office, state agencies, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), banks, realtors and other stakeholders to pass new laws that promote economic development and recovery:

- » PA 10-158 creates a Business Ombudsman in the Department of Economic and Community Development and speeds up the permitting process to help businesses grow while also protecting the environment
- » PA 10-77 stops faulty appraisals from slowing or blocking house and business sales by requiring Appraisal Management Companies (AMC’s) to be registered and regulated



Lonnie argues for House passage of the Real Estate Appraisal Bill



Lonnie raising flag with staff and patrons of Orchard House Adult Daycare

## Good News for Seniors

- » Reduced seniors’ cost share for the state funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6% - saving \$100 per month on average (PA 10-126)
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer’s Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family members
- » Protected senior’s assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid (PA 10-7)

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

State Representative  
**Lonnie Reed**



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## Rolling Back State Parks & Sport License Fees!

After hearing from constituents, I worked to pass legislation which reduced fees for state park and campground passes as well as hunting and fishing licenses. Anyone who paid a higher price will be eligible for a credit, which will be applied to their next license, permit fee, or tag purchase next year. (PA 10-99)



Lonnie receiving AARP award for her efforts on behalf of Seniors

## Protecting Your Family Banning Cadmium

Connecticut continues to lead the nation in banning toxic chemicals from children’s products. I fought for our new law to ban cadmium from children’s jewelry (PA 10-113). Cadmium can damage kidneys and the central nervous system and kids are especially vulnerable.



The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut awarding Lonnie for her efforts to protect children from toxic chemicals

