

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DANNY ROVERO

SERVING THE 51ST DISTRICT

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share this update on the recently concluded legislative session. Each year brings a new set of challenges and the 2014 session was no different. The need to encourage economic growth, help working families and make critical investments in the future of our children, as well as our state, was clear.

Meeting these priorities took a lot of hard work, but I am happy to report that my colleagues and I were able to achieve our goals.

Working in a bipartisan manner, we were able to increase funding for education and enable more children to attend pre-school. We also made additional investments in job creation programs such as STEP-UP, which encourages employers to hire veterans and the unemployed, and will help our economy grow.

As Vice Chair of the Aging Committee, one of my main legislative priorities is taking care of our seniors. This year we worked on several bills that help our senior citizens. One of these bills creates a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and other assistive technology that will allow people to remain in their homes longer. This program is open to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently without the modifications. We also created a measure which will re-open the Renters Rebate program to eligible seniors and individuals with permanent disabilities to receive partial reimbursements related to rental payments.

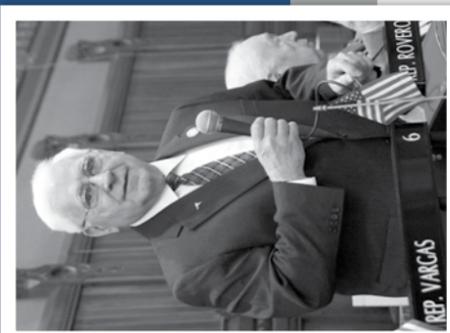
I hope the enclosed information is helpful, and please feel free to contact me. It is my pleasure and honor to serve as your state representative.

Thank you,

Danny Rovero

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Rep. Rovero in the Legislative Office Building



Rep. Rovero Leading the House Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance

HELP FOR JOBLESS VETERANS

This session we worked to streamline the state licensing process for our job-seeking veterans. Connecticut veterans can now apply their military training toward occupational licenses, including public safety positions and a variety of trades. In addition, college credits can be awarded for specialty training and apprenticeship credits applied to specific trades.



Danny with DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith and Senator Don Williams

STRENGTHENING THE DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

Even though we created a Do Not Call List to address unwanted sales pitches at home and on our cell phones, some companies continue to make unwanted calls. We increased the penalty for violating the do not call list to \$20,000. In addition, we added text messages to the Do Not Call List. To register, call toll-free from the phone you want on the list: 1-888-382-1222.

MAINTAINING EMERGENCY RESPONSE COVERAGE

As a member of the Public Safety and Security Committee, it was important to me that Troop D be reopened full-time for the protection of our citizens. I co-sponsored legislation to stop consolidating State Police dispatch centers, have non-emergency calls be directed back to local barracks and have an evaluation performed on the system.

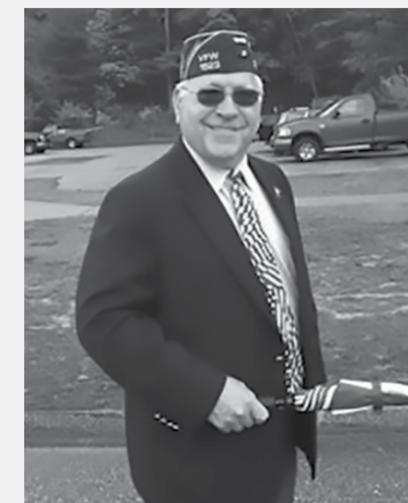
ELECTRIC CUSTOMER CONSUMER PROTECTION

Many consumers have counted on paying less for energy after signing up for low introductory rates from suppliers, only to discover that their rates jumped in the weeks that followed.

Energy suppliers will now be prohibited from offering consumers short-term “teaser” energy contracts with low rates, then switching to much higher variable rate contracts within weeks. Termination fees would be capped at \$50 under the law, and a consumer could switch back to the standard rate charged by UI or CL&P within 72 hours.

BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE BLIGHTED BELDING SITE

The state of Connecticut has provided Thompson with \$200,000 to look into exactly what is contaminating the 33-acre Belding property. The brownfield funds will help Thompson identify the problem and remediate the local eye sore with the potential for providing real value and commercial use in the future.



Danny Attending the Memorial Day Parade in Thompson



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ACCESS TO BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR ADOPTEES

Currently, adoptees can only obtain their birth certificates through a court order. To help adoptees access their medical history in order protect themselves and their children from hereditary disease, this year we required the Department of Public Health to give adults whose adoptions were finalized after October 1, 1983 copies of the adoptee’s original birth certificate upon request.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

We authorized a study of private funding sources for home and community based care for the elderly and those afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease. The Commission on Aging will conduct this in order to identify the availability of state-funded home and community-based care and the cost effectiveness of those programs.

ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY

In 2013 we passed landmark school safety legislation. This year we added several new safety measures, including a safe travel to school grant program, and clarifications to the safe school climate statutes.