



Dear Neighbors,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health and good spirits. The General Assembly is currently hard at work crafting legislation to better serve you, the people of Connecticut and the 33<sup>rd</sup> District.

As always, my number one priority is to represent you at the Capitol to the best of my ability. To that end, this newsletter will highlight some of the initiatives we are discussing this legislative session. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information, to voice your concerns or share your ideas. I value your participation as we endeavor to help improve life in this great state.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Serra  
State Representative, 33rd District

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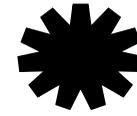
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JOSEPH C. SERRA**

33<sup>rd</sup> DISTRICT

PROUDLY SERVING MIDDLETOWN



- ASSISTED LIVING
- CONSUMER PROTECTION
- VETERANS
- TRANSPORTATION
- AGING

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## Assisted Living

I have submitted legislation that will permit an additional two hundred and twenty-five people to participate in the state's assisted living pilot projects. I am extremely

pleased that these types of facilities will be more readily available for those in need.

The Aging Committee also passed legislation that would afford greater protection to assisted living residents by providing such facilities with additional rules and regulations. These facilities will need to provide each resident with a written service plan and, upon request, to arrange for the provision of ancillary medical services (physical and dental services, home health aide services, and hospice care), and to maintain written reports on the scope of services provided. Finally, no assisted living facility will control or manage the financial affairs or personal property of any resident.

All residents will also receive a written bill of rights and responsibilities that prescribes the rights afforded to them. This bill of rights will include at least the following: to live in a clean, safe and habitable private residential unit; to be treated with consideration, respect and due recognition of personal dignity; to live in an area that promotes health, safety and welfare; to have their communications remain private; to have the freedom to participate in and benefit from community services; and to retain the use of one's own personal property.

I strongly believe in promoting these facilities, as they allow our elderly a greater sense of self-sufficiency while at the same time providing them with a safe managed residential community in which to live.

## Veterans

I have requested that Middletown receive funding for the location and construction of a Military Museum and Welcome Center. This type of attraction would be built in Middletown; it would honor the sacrifice of all of Connecticut's veterans, This facility would promote tourism for our city.



In response to many of your calls, I have also submitted legislation that would provide for the posthumous award of State of Connecticut ribbons and medals. These ribbons and medals are currently awarded to living veterans. This bill would allow them to be awarded to family members of deceased veterans who served in time of war.

## Consumer Protection

I have submitted legislation that will prohibit banks from imposing fees or charges to dormant bank accounts. These fees are not friendly to consumers.



In response to calls from local residents and our local government, I submitted a bill that would require that unlicensed contractors engaged in certain construction activity be licensed. This bill will enhance the ability of the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection to enforce licensing, certification and registration laws, thus helping to put a stop to unlicensed contractors operating in our state.

## Transportation

The Route 3 (Newfield Street) bridge at the Middletown/Cromwell town line over the Mattabasett River, which was built in 1933, is by today's standards deficient. I have submitted legislation to replace the current bridge with a modern four-lane structure to improve the flow of traffic in our community.

## Aging

### ConnPACE

The Aging Committee, of which I am a co-chair, has been working to protect the ConnPACE program. We are calling for a slight increase in the amount of annual income used to base eligibility for this program.

### Elderly Tax Freeze

We also worked on the elderly tax freeze program by increasing the income limits used for eligibility and including a component to reimburse municipalities for the loss in revenue. The tax freeze for an individual who is seventy years of age or older would be at a rate determined at the year that eligibility requirements are met. This is one way to enable our elderly to afford to stay in their homes and maintain their independence.

### Senior Citizen Volunteer Services Tax Credit Program

Many seniors volunteer in their communities and the Aging Committee felt that this should be rewarded. Thus we are recommending the establishment of a senior citizen volunteer services tax credit program. The program would allow any municipality to abate the property taxes due for any year for volunteer services provided on behalf of a municipality by a taxpayer who is sixty years of age or older. The amount of the abatement would be redetermined annually. Municipalities would have to approve the program.