

VETERANS UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for your remarkable service to our country. In order to ensure that your sacrifices are recognized, we worked hard this session on a number of initiatives to help support veterans in Connecticut. This special newsletter provides an update on recent policy initiatives and changes made at the state level to better support you and honor your sacrifices. It also contains resources and contact information for veterans services.

If you have a question or concern, or if I can support you in any way, feel free to call my personal cell phone anytime at 203-962-4619 or email me at caroline.simmons@cga.ct.gov.

Thank you for your service to our country.

Best regards,



Caroline Simmons



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Caroline Simmons

STAMFORD | 144TH HOUSE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING

HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

PHONE: 203-962-4619

EMAIL: CAROLINE.SIMMONS@CGA.CT.GOV

WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/SIMMONS



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CAROLINE SIMMONS

SUPPORTING OUR STATE VETERANS

TAX EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY

This year, I was honored to vote in favor for cutting taxes for Veterans effective for tax years beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2015 - giving a 100% CT state income tax exemption for military retirement pay. The exemption applies to Federal retirement pay for all retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard, and CT Army and Air National Guard.

INCREASING SERVICES TO VETERANS ON CAMPUS

I was proud to co-sponsor this bill which increases services to veterans on state college and university campus by enhancing Operation Academic Support for Incoming Service Members (OASIS). Given the fact that services vary depending on the campus, this bill ensures that the Board of Regents will upgrade all campus centers to a higher quality standard, so that all student veterans have equal access and opportunity. To find out more about this program, contact your state college or university.

WOMEN VETERANS' PROGRAM

This year I was proud to co-sponsor the establishment of the CT Women Veterans' Program, which helps recognize the unique sacrifice of women veterans. As a result of this legislation, the CT Department of Veterans' Affairs will now conduct benefits and services outreach for female veterans. For more information on this new program, contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs at 866-928-8387.



TAX CREDITS FOR VETERANS IN AGRICULTURE

This year I was proud to co-sponsor legislation establishing the Veterans to Agriculture program, which will provide tax credits to veterans working in agricultural production. For more information, or to see if you are eligible, contact the Department of Revenue Services at 860-297-5962.

Phone: 203-962-4619

Email: caroline.simmons@cga.ct.gov

www.housedems.ct.gov/simmons



www.facebook.com/repcarolinesimmons

SERVICES FOR VETERANS
Stamford Citizen's Service Center
203-977-4140

New Haven Vet Center
203-795-0148

Veterans Benefits Infoline
866-928-8387

US Veterans' Affairs
800-827-1000

West Haven VA Hospital
203-932-5711

CT Veterans' Workforce Development
860-263-6514

CT Military Support Program
866-251-2913

Veterans' Crisis Line
800-273-8255

Army Reserve Family Programs
www.arfp.org

VA Forms Online
www.va.gov/vaforms

CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs
www.ct.gov/ctva