



Supporting Our Seniors And Veterans

While we focused much of our attention this year on the current economic situation and its impact on our state budget, we did not forget our seniors and veterans. We passed a number of bills that will make things easier for senior citizens and for veterans, active personnel, and their families.

In this newsletter, I outline a few key bills that we passed this year. As always, I look forward to hearing from you if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other state matter.



the House Democrats of Connecticut

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LEGISLATION SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS AND HONORING OUR VETERANS

Financial Crimes Against Seniors

To protect seniors from fraudulent marketing practices, we prohibited financial consultants and life insurance agents from advertising that they are certified to advise seniors unless they have completed a qualified training program or meet state standards for certification.

Expanding Access To Affordable Homecare

New rules expand access to affordable personal care assistance under the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. This program can provide assistance with daily living activities and help many seniors to remain independent in their homes rather than enter a nursing home.

Missing Seniors

The new Silver Alert system, modeled after the Amber Alert system for missing children, will help locate missing seniors and mentally impaired adults by broadcasting an emergency missing persons notice to radio and television stations, CT Lottery system retailers, and electronic billboards.

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.

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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