



*New York State Assembly*  
**2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

*committee on*  
**VETERANS'  
AFFAIRS**

*Philip R. Ramos*  
*Chair*



*Sheldon Silver*  
*Speaker*

December 15, 2011

Honorable Sheldon Silver  
Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
Room 932 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Speaker,

It is with great pleasure that I forward to you the 2011 Annual Report of the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In February, I was honored, Mr. Speaker, to be named by you as chair of this important committee dedicated to military veterans. I hope to continue the Assembly tradition of leadership that has been established since the committee was created in 1983.

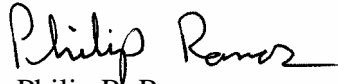
Several significant pieces of legislation became law this year, including authorizing municipalities to create a permit system for demonstrations occurring in the vicinity of a wake, funeral, burial, or memorial service. The measure would also authorize the commissioner of the State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to promulgate regulations to require that a permit be obtained for a demonstration at a funeral event held on state property.

Some of the other measures enacted into law include: making available to returning servicemen and women information on accident prevention courses approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles online at the Division of Military and Naval Affairs website and the Division of Veterans' Affairs website; requiring two members of the advisory council of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services to be veterans who served in a combat theater or combat zone of operations or who are serving the veterans population, and clarifying and updating the duties of the women veterans' coordinator at the Division of Veterans' Affairs.

While some of our legislative goals were achieved this past session, much more remains to be done. In 2012, the Committee will focus on the returning veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Also among the issues of the Committee will examine are homeless veterans and continued outreach to older veterans and women veterans.

I wish to extend my appreciation and many thanks to the members of the Committee, the Committee staff, and the veterans of New York State and to you, Mr. Speaker, for your unwavering support for veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Ramos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

Philip R. Ramos  
Member of Assembly

**ANNUAL REPORT  
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERAN' AFFAIRS**

**Honorable Philip R. Ramos  
Chair**

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Joanne B. Martin, Principal Analyst  
Aaron Suggs, Associate Counsel  
Kathleen Quackenbush, Program and Counsel Secretary  
Roussel Arias, Committee Clerk

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## **I. COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND SUMMARY**

The Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs evaluates legislation affecting nearly one million New York State residents who selflessly served their nation in the United States armed forces. This number includes the 66,116 women veterans who volunteered to serve in the military. Their jobs have ranged from nurses to switchboard operators to combat positions. The Committee's work is geared toward safeguarding programs and promoting legislation to benefit veterans and their families. In addition, the Committee maintains an ongoing dialogue with the veterans' community and addresses developing issues affecting the lives of New York State veterans.

Veterans' issues are affected by a number of titles of New York State statutes, principally: Civil Service Law, Executive Law, Military Law, Education Law, Real Property Tax Law, Public Health Law, and Retirement and Social Security Law. Amendments to the New York State constitution that would affect veterans are also considered by the Committee. New York State currently offers a variety of veterans' assistance programs, including a real property tax exemption, educational assistance for certain veterans and their family members, and a state veterans nursing home program. The Committee was represented at the opening reception of the battle flag display entitled "1861 Banners For Glory," which was the first event of the New York State Sesquicentennial Observation of the American Civil War.

This past legislative session, the Committee held six meetings at which it considered ninety bills and three resolutions. Five bills passed both houses of the Legislature; five were signed into law.

While the Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs has jurisdiction over legislation that affects veterans' benefits and programs that help veterans and their families, the Committee does not work alone. Some initiatives advanced by individual veterans and organizations are referred to other standing committees, such as Energy, Transportation, Health, Governmental Employees, Labor, Environmental Conservation, Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development, and Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions. As a result, the Committee's chair, members, and staff must work closely with other committees to ensure that this unique population's needs are met. To meet this goal, the Committee may analyze legislation referred to other Assembly standing committees and conduct joint public hearings and roundtables with other committees.



## **II. 2011 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **A. Permit System for Demonstrations Occurring in the Vicinity of a Wake, Funeral, Burial, or Memorial Service (A.7697, Cusick; Chapter 527 of the Laws of 2011)**

In Snyder v. Phelps, 526 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2011), the U. S. Supreme Court recognized that persons who protest at funerals of military personnel have constitutional rights but also acknowledged that states have a compelling interest in protecting the family and friends of deceased military personnel while they are mourning at such events.

As the Snyder case demonstrates, there are individuals and groups that seek to use military funerals as a forum to publicize the issues on which they are demonstrating. The Snyder decision held that the First Amendment protects the right to express views with which the vast majority disagree, but that the expression of these ideas can be regulated by the states with respect to time, place, and manner.

This chapter would authorize the state as well as municipalities to create a one-thousand-foot zone around a wake, funeral, burial, or memorial service. The parks commissioner would be authorized to require people planning demonstrations to apply for a permit prior to demonstrating on state property; local governments, by local law, would be authorized to enact similar permit requirements for demonstrations conducted in parks and on public property under the jurisdiction of local governments.

This law would facilitate reasonable and constitutional regulation of the time, place, and manner of such demonstrations, in recognition of the sensitive circumstances and legitimate needs and interests of mourning family members, neighbors, and friends.

### **B. Accident Prevention Course Information for Returning Service Members (A.1608, Ortiz, Chapter 489 of the Laws of 2011)**

Research conducted by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs regarding returning Vietnam and Gulf War veterans shows that the risk of death from a motor vehicle accident is much higher during the first five years after redeployment, regardless of gender, than for the population as a whole. For Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the risk is seventy-five percent greater than the general United States population. It is important that information on accident prevention courses be made available to returning veterans so that they may drive safely as they return home.

This chapter requires the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) and the Division of Veterans' Affairs to provide to returning servicemen and women who have served in a combat theater or a combat zone of operations information regarding accident prevention courses approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This information may be in written form or made available online. Both of these agencies must provide a link to the DMV website pages containing information about accident prevention courses. This

measure also requires the Commissioner of the Department of Economic Development to include any accident prevention courses approved by the commissioner of DMV that offer courses at a reduced rate for returning servicemen and women in the “NY-USA Proud” program.

**C. Veterans’ Bulletin Board  
(A.2411, Gabryszak; Chapter 16 of the Laws of 2011)**

This chapter allows each county, city, town, and village to adopt a local law that would authorize a bulletin board to be conspicuously displayed in the building that contains its municipal offices. The board will be used by veterans’ organizations, the Division of Veterans’ Affairs, and the county or city veterans’ services agencies to display information on veterans’ benefits or upcoming veterans’ events in the community.

**D. Addition of Representatives to Advisory Council  
(A.141-B, Paulin; Chapter 499 of the Laws of 2011)**

This chapter requires that two members of the twenty-six member advisory council of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services to be veterans who served in a combat theater or combat zone of operations or to be someone providing services to the veteran population. This would apply to vacancies occurring on or after the effective date.

**E. Women Veterans Coordinator Duties  
(A.6383, Lupardo; Chapter 515 of the Laws of 2011)**

Chapter 271 of the Laws of 1994 and Chapter 359 of the Laws of 1999 were written and passed in order to ensure that women veterans have equal access to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs facilities by requiring the appointment of a women veterans’ coordinator to serve as an advocate for women veterans.

At the time of enactment of the original chapter, the women veterans coordinator position was based on the federal government model used at each Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. Since that time, other states, including Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, and Texas, have created a Women Veterans Coordinator within their state agencies dedicated to military veterans.

This chapter removes specific duties on the state level that are the responsibilities of those women veterans’ coordinators at each of the federal Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. It adds functions that reflect the statewide mission of the New York State Division of Veterans’ Affairs, such as promoting events and activities that would recognize, educate, and honor women veterans.

### **III. BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **A. The Division of Veterans' Affairs**

##### **1. Veteran Counseling Service Program**

The Division of Veterans' Affairs (VA) operates three principal programs. The largest is the Veterans Counseling Services Program, which provides counseling and claims services through a statewide network of State veterans' counselors. The counselors, all of whom are veterans, and support staff help veterans complete and file applications for state, federal, and private benefits and services. Counselors also serve constituents through outreach to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, senior centers, state veterans' nursing homes and local nursing homes, and public assistance offices. State veterans counselors help to ensure that active duty military personnel and their families receive the supplemental benefits to which they are entitled.

State veterans counselors receive professional training in veterans' benefits counseling. When successfully completed, a certificate is awarded to allow these counselors to assist individual veterans to file claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Counselors receive on-going training, as well as technical information and manuals.

In State fiscal year 2009-10, new claims for federal benefits that provide direct assistance to veterans and their families generated more than \$108 million in new and recurring VA benefits that provide for compensation and pension payments for disabled and low-income veterans and dependents. The Division's accredited counseling staff is responsible for securing and maintaining a substantial portion of the \$1.5 billion in federal VA benefits paid annually to qualified veterans and their dependents in New York State.

The SFY 2011-12 State budget appropriated \$5,322,000 for services and expenses related to the Veterans' Counseling Program in State Operations funds and \$2,052,000 for services in Aid To Localities funds.

##### **a. County and City Veterans Service Agencies**

County and city veterans' service agencies are mandated by state law to inform members of the armed forces, reserves, organized militia, and veterans and their families about available education, retraining, medical, and other rehabilitative services and facilities. They are also required to inform veterans and their families about federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to their rights.

The State budget for SFY 2011-12 includes a sub-allocation of \$1,177,000 for the payment of aid to County and City Veterans Service Agencies in Aid To Localities funding.

**b. Monroe County Veterans Outreach Center**

The Veterans' Outreach Center in Rochester, New York, is the oldest community-based outreach center serving veterans of all eras. Its mission is to improve the lives of veterans and their dependents by offering free veteran-specific programs, such as the Veterans Community Technology Center, which provides occupational skills training. The Outreach Center also provides counseling services for successful reintegration of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts into the community, short-term psychological counseling for veterans and their immediate families, residential programs for homeless veterans, and an alternative to incarceration program through the unified drug court system.

The State budget for SFY 2011-12 includes a sub-allocation of \$250,000 for the services and expenses related to the Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., in Aid To Localities funding.

**c. Buffalo Service Office/New York City Service Office**

The Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has two veterans' service offices. One is located in Buffalo and the other in New York City. These offices have certified veterans counselors who help discharged veterans to navigate the myriad of benefits available.

The State budget for SFY 2011-12 includes a sub-allocation of \$50,000 for additional services and expenses of the Buffalo Service Office in Aid to Localities funding. This was a legislative addition to the budget proposed by the executive.

The State budget for SFY 2011-12 includes a sub-allocation of \$75,000 for additional services and expenses of the New York City Service Office under the Aid to Localities funding. This was a legislative addition.

**d. Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council**

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." The council's purpose is to help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam era veteran. As well, the council assists disabled and needy military veterans, including, but not limited to, Vietnam-era veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans. The Council members provide assistance in navigating the various benefits available to veterans.

The SFY 2011-12 budget includes a sub-allocation of \$25,000 to the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council in Aid To Localities funding. This is a legislative addition to the budget proposed by the executive.

## **2. Blind Veterans' Annuity Assistance**

In 2000, Chapter 453 raised the New York State Blind Veterans' Annuity Program stipend from \$500 to \$1,000 a year. The benefit was first created in 1913, and the 2000 chapter was the first time the benefit was increased. Chapter 251 of the Laws of 2004 mandated the annual adjustment of the annuity now payable plus a percentage increase, if any, for compensation and pension benefits administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the previous year. The director of the Division of Veterans' Affairs must publish by February first of each year the amount of the adjusted annuity.

The SFY 2011-12 budget appropriated \$5,800,000 to this program in Aid To Localities funding. Up to \$15,000 of the appropriation may be transferred to state operations for postage costs associated with this program.

## **3. Veterans' Education Program**

The Veterans' Education Program is a unit within the Division. The program is located in Albany and New York City and investigates and approves post-secondary educational and vocational institutions for the use of the Veterans' Affairs education benefits. It is also responsible for approving on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs for the use of Veterans' Affairs educational benefits.

The SFY 2011-12 budget appropriates \$1,966,000 for the expenses associated with the operation of this program in State Operations funding.

## **4. Administration Program**

The Administration Program is primarily composed of two components, Supplemental Burial Benefits and Gold Star Annuity Benefits. In addition, the appropriation also provides for the funding of administrative personnel and operational expenses.

The SFY 2011-12 budget appropriates \$984,000 under State Operations Funding and \$1,399,000 under Aid To Localities funding.

### **a. New York State Supplemental Burial Benefits**

Pursuant to Chapter 106 of the Laws of 2003, New York State offers a supplemental burial benefits program to eligible families of military personnel killed in combat or on duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger, as defined in 37 U.S.C. Section 310(a) (4).

In the SFY 2011-12 budget, \$200,000 was sub-allocated for this program and for transfer of such amounts as are necessary to state operations for related administrative expenses.

**b. Gold Star Parents**

Gold Star parents have inspired patriotic spirit in their children, encouraging them to serve the greater good of our country. These parents who have lost children to the ravages of war are unable to rely upon their children in their twilight years.

This appropriation is dedicated to the payment of a \$500 annuity upon application to the State Director of the Division of Veterans' Affairs for a parent who, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. section 1126, is a Gold Star Parent and has an income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level. Up to two parents may claim this annual benefit.

The SFY 2011-12 budget sub-allocates \$599,000 to the payment of the Gold Star Parent annuities.

**5. State Veterans Cemetery**

The Veterans Administration (VA) State Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement the VA's network of national cemeteries. The program assists states in providing gravesites in those areas where the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) cannot fully satisfy veterans' burial needs. Public Law 105-368, which went into effect in 1999, authorized the VA to provide up to 100 percent of the development cost for an approved project. The VA can now provide for operating equipment and for construction of new cemeteries. VA does not provide for acquisition of land. The administration, operation, and maintenance of a VA-supported state cemetery are solely the responsibility of the state.

The Legislature provided \$500,000 in funding for services and expenses related to a federally funded state veteran's cemetery, pursuant to a chapter of the law of 2011, and pursuant to a project approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. This appropriation is made to a State Operations funds account.

**B. Division of Military and Naval Affairs**

**1. Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program**

Chapter 268 of the Laws of 1996 established the Recruitment Incentive and Retention Program to provide eligible members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, and the New York Naval Militia with a tuition benefit for in graduate study.

In the budget for SFY 2011-2012, \$3,300,000 was included for this vital program in the State Operations funds account. Furthermore, this program was extended from March 31, 2011, to July 31, 2016, under Part A of the Public Protection and General Government Article VII legislation, Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2011.

## **2. New York State Military Museum and Veterans' Research Center**

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans' Research Center is located in the Saratoga Armory in Saratoga Springs, New York.

In the budget for SFY 2011-12, \$261,000 was included for operating expenses associated with the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center for nonpersonal service in State Operations funding. Also, in the budget for SFY 2011-12, \$1,000,000 was appropriated for services and expenses related to youth academic and drug demand reduction programs, the New York Guard, the New York Naval Militia, the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center, and the preservation and restoration of historic artifacts for nonpersonal service in State Operations funds.

## **C. New York State Higher Education Services Corporation**

### **Various Veterans and Military Related Tuition Awards Programs**

Currently, there are three awards programs available to veterans under the jurisdiction of the New York State Higher Education Service Corporation. They are: the Veterans' Assistance Program, which provides payments for tuition up to the undergraduate cost of education at the State University of New York for veterans who served in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf and who have earned an Expeditionary Medal; the Military Enhanced Recognition Incentive and Tribute (MERIT) financial aid program for children, spouses, and financial dependents of those who, while New York State residents, served in the U.S. Armed Forces or state-organized militia at any time after August 2, 1990, died, became severely and permanently disabled, or were classified as missing in action in a combat zone; and the New York State Regents Awards for Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans, which provides \$450 per year to students whose parents served in the U.S. Armed Forces, died as a result of service, or were discharged and suffer a forty percent or more disability as a result of such service.

In the SFY 2011-12 budget, \$43,256,000 was appropriated to cover the entire costs associated with the State's many scholarship programs, including the veterans and military-related programs.

## **D. State Veterans Home Program**

There are five State veterans homes serving one million veterans of New York State. The New York State Veterans Home Program has 1,220 beds in five locations throughout the State. State Veterans Homes provide comprehensive long term care services, including short term rehabilitation, Alzheimer's and dementia care, and palliative and end of life care.

The New York State Veterans Homes program has two sponsoring agencies, the State University of New York (SUNY), which operates the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University and the Department of Health (DOH) which operates: a New York state home for veterans and their dependents at Oxford; the New York state home for veterans in the city of New York (St. Albans); the New York state home for veterans in western New York (Batavia); and the New York state home for veterans in the lower-Hudson Valley (Montrose).

The executive budget recommended a ten percent cut to the funding for each state veterans' nursing home for the operating budget years of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

The legislature restored \$4.1 million to the Long Island Veterans Home. It further restored \$6.8 million to mitigate reductions to four state-operated veteran's nursing homes under the jurisdiction of the New York State Health Department.



#### **IV. BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**

##### **A. Veterans' Affairs Committee**

###### **1. Instructional Programs for American Military History (A. 959, Colton; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would require the director of the Division of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) in consultation with the director of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Resource Center, to establish a veteran speaker education program. The DVA would develop an informational pamphlet with a general overview of the veteran speaker education program, to be circulated to school districts. The pamphlet would also list the available speakers for the program who would be willing to share their military experience.

###### **2. Additional Service Credit (A. 2088, Thiele; Passed Assembly)**

This concurrent resolution to amend the New York State Constitution would allow a person who has received an appointment through the civil service system to be entitled to additional credit if the individual was classified as a veteran with disabilities after the first appointment or promotion.

###### **3. Services Available to Veterans (A.2920, Sweeney; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would require all subdivisions of the State to inquire, when dealing with a client or customer, whether he or she or a family member is a veteran, and to inform veterans and their families of the services and opportunities made available by the Division of Veterans' Affairs. Any new forms created after the effective date of this act would contain the following questions: "Have you served in the United States Armed Forces?" and "Has someone in your family served in the United States Military?"

###### **4. Veteran-Owned Small Business Account (A.7166, Ramos; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would require the Division of Veterans' Affairs to include an accounting of the number of veteran-owned small businesses in the State of New York in its annual report to the Governor and the members of the Legislature. This information would detail both small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

**5. Review of the Division of Veterans' Affairs Programs For Elderly Veterans  
(A.7660, Moya; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would require the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with the Office for the Aging, to review veterans programs offered by the Division to ensure that the needs of the state's aging population are being met and to develop improvements to such programs.

**B. Health Committee**

**Clarification of the Disposition of Human Remains  
(A.591, Gottfried; Passed Assembly)**

This legislation would make several technical amendments to the Public Health Law to clarify that the written instrument designating an agent does not have to be the form appearing in Section 4201 of the Public Health Law and would remove the requirement for a second witness. This measure would allow the DD Form 93, January 2008, to be used. This federal form is used by military personnel to designate beneficiaries for certain benefits in the event of the service member's death. It is also used for disposition of that member's pay and allowance if captured, missing, or interned.

**C. Mental Health Committee**

**Eliminate Stigma Among Service Members  
(A.1070, Ortiz; Passed Assembly)**

This proposal was the result of a public hearing held in February 2010 by the New York State Assembly Standing Committees on Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and on Veterans' Affairs. This bill would create a mental illness and chemical dependence initiative designed to eliminate stigma and misinformation about mental illness and chemical dependence among military service personnel.

**D. Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development Committee**

**New York State Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Commission  
(A1650-A, McEneny; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would create the "New York State Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Commission" to plan and execute an organized series of reenactment tourist events.

## **V. BILLS REPORTED BY OTHER COMMITTEES THAT BECAME LAW**

### **A. Aging Committee**

#### **Review and Response of the Office of the Aging for the Veteran Population (A.544, Dinowitz; Chapter 263 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law directs the State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to periodically review the programs offered by NYSOFA to ensure that they are appropriately responding to the needs of the State's aging veteran population.

### **B. Codes Committee**

#### **Extension of Buffer Zone at Protests at Funerals ( A.7698, Cusick; Chapter 528 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law extends the buffer zone for protests at a religious service, funeral, burial, or memorial service for military personnel from 100 feet to 300 feet.

### **C. Ways and Means Committee**

#### **Traumatic Brain Injury Medical Coverage (A.8515, Kellner; Chapter 220 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law eliminates the twenty visits per year limit on medical assistance coverage for speech, physical, and occupational therapies to persons with traumatic brain injury.

### **D. Election Law Committee**

#### **Special Elections (A.5698, Millman; Chapter 4 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law amends certain provisions of the Public Officers Law and the Election Law to provide county boards of elections additional time prior to special elections in order to allow military ballots to be timely mailed to voters in compliance with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act ("UOCAVA"), as amended by the Military and Overseas Voting Empowerment Act ("MOVE Act"). "These requirements are critical to ensuring that the men and women who served our country in the armed forces are not deprived of a meaningful opportunity to participate in elections in their home districts." Approval Memorandum No. 2, signed by Andrew M. Cuomo.

#### **Presidential Primary Election Day (A.8363, Silver; Chapter 147 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law amends certain provisions of the Election Law to schedule the presidential primary election for April 24, 2012, give the political parties statutory options for the election of

delegates and alternative delegates to their party conventions, and ensure the State's compliance with the federal MOVE Act, which requires that ballots be transmitted to overseas and military voters at least 45 days before the election.

#### **E. Environmental Conservation Committee**

##### **Transfer of License When the Deceased Was a Member of the Military (A.6440, Sweeney; Chapter 90 of the Laws of 2011)**

This measure removes the fee associated with the transfer of a lifetime hunting, fishing, or trapping license when the deceased was a member of the armed forces of the United States or a member of the National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States who died in a combat zone or combat zone of operations or while deployed for active military duty, other than training, on or after September 11, 2001.

##### **Rehabilitation For Veterans or Active Members (A.4263-A, Magee; Chapter 46 of the Laws of 2011)**

The Department of Environmental Conservation is authorized under this measure to designate additional fishing events as rehabilitation for veterans or active members of the military. These events would provide physical and emotional rehabilitation for current and former members of the armed forces. Those participating would not have to obtain a fishing license. Previously, only sport fishing clinics were covered.

#### **F. Governmental Employees Committee**

##### **Abolishing Positions While On Military Duty (A.1428-B, Castelli; Chapter 152 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law mandates compliance with the Federal Uniform Service Employment and Reemployment Act of 1994. The legislation prohibits abolition of public employees' positions solely upon the fact that the positions were filled by individuals in military duty.

##### **Death Benefits and Health Insurance Coverage To Eligible Survivors (A.7835-B, Abbate; Chapter 582 of the Laws of 2011)**

This law provides death benefits and health insurance coverage to eligible survivors of public employees who die while ordered to service in the armed services. The New York State public pension systems would comply with The Federal Heroes Earning Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 ("Heart Act") by the December 31, 2012, deadline, so that the members affected would remain qualified for the governmental pension plans within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code. This measure was proposed by the New York State Comptroller.

## **VI. HONORING VETERANS THROUGH LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

### **A. Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to Pass S.951, the Hiring Heroes Act of 2011 (Resolution No. 576, Ramos)**

The proposed federal Hiring Heroes Act of 2011 would help veterans transition successfully from military service to the working world, particularly those men and women who have served our country in Iraq and Afghanistan. S.951 would allow our men and women in uniform to capitalize on their service while also ensuring the American people capitalize on the investment we have made in them. For the first time, it would require broad job skills training for every servicemember as they leave the military as part of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). This proposal is aimed at reducing an unemployment rate of twenty-seven percent for veterans returning home from active duty overseas. This resolution urges the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the Hiring Heroes Act of 2011.

### **B. Memorializing the Secretary of the United States Army to Reopen the Inquiry Into the Heroic Actions of Sergeant Henry Johnson During a Battle That Took Place on May 14, 1918 (Resolution No. 501, McEneny)**

While on guard duty on May 14, 1918, then-Private Henry Johnson and fellow soldier Needham Roberts came under the attack by a German raider party of two dozen. Roberts was wounded and captured. Despite sustaining twenty-one wounds, Johnson followed the enemy, fatally shooting one German, when his gun jammed, used his bayonet to kill several others. Johnson saved countless lives by putting the enemy to flight after this surprise attack. Subsequently, Henry Johnson was promoted to Sergeant in May 1918. He became the first American in any conflict, to receive the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military decoration. In 1996, Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and in 2003, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest award. New evidence has been uncovered to strengthen Sergeant Johnson's case for the Medal of Honor, particularly the memo from General John Pershing, the World War I Army Commander-in-Chief, which details Henry Johnson's bravery and self-sacrifice during the May 14, 1918, fight. The document is critical to Johnson's case because receiving the Medal of Honor requires a chain-of-command endorsement. This resolution requests that the Secretary of the United States Army reopen the inquiry into the heroic actions of Sergeant Henry Johnson on May 14, 1918.

### **C. Commemorating the Observance of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War in the State of New York (Resolution No. 276, Calhoun)**

New York State played a major role throughout the American Civil War and greatly influenced national politics, the Union war effort, and the media coverage. New York State, the most populous state in the Union during the American Civil War, provided more troops to the Union Army than any other state. New York State is also the home to the largest collection of Civil War battle flags. The American Civil War took place April 12, 1861, to April 9, 1865. This resolution commemorates the observance of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War in the State of New York.

**D. Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Civil War in the State of New York and Recognizing the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> of New York (Resolution No. 306, Markey)**

The fighting 69<sup>th</sup> infantry regiment of New York traces its proud history to the Civil War. With the outbreak of hostilities following Fort Sumter, the Irish joined the Armies of both sides in large numbers and served with great distinction, heroism, and honor. The Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> suffered the sixth highest number of casualties of the more than 2,000 Regiments serving the North during the Civil War. The battlefield exploits and colorful demeanor of these Sons of Erin expedited the process of assimilation and the full and welcome acceptance of the Irish into American society. This resolution celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Civil War and recognizes the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> of New York.

**E. Commemorating the 236<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Army on June 14, 2011 (Resolution No. 616, Barclay)**

The Continental Army was formed 236 years ago with the goals of ending tyranny and winning freedom for the colonists in what has become the United States of America. The United States Army is steeped in a proud tradition that dates back to June 14, 1775, but it is ever flexible and capable of responding to a dynamic world. This resolution pays tribute to the bravery, patriotism, and sacrifice made by the men and women of the United States Army, both those still living and those who have died in the service of our nation.

**F. Commemorating the 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of White Plains (Resolution No. 699, Castelli)**

The Battle of White Plains was a battle in the New York and New Jersey campaign of the American Revolution fought on October 28, 1776, near White Plains, New York. Following the retreat of George Washington's Continental army northward from New York City, British General William Howe landed troops in Westchester County, intending to cut off Washington's escape route. Washington retreated farther, when alerted to the moves of the British, establishing a position in the village of White Plains. Howe's troops drove General Washington's troops from a hill near the village. Following this loss, Washington ordered the Americans to retreat farther north. This resolution commemorates the Battle of White Plains.

**G. Commemorating the Observance of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30, 2011 (Resolution No. 293, Castelli)**

The Vietnam Conflict was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975 and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with the United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. This resolution pays tribute to the bravery, patriotism, and sacrifice made by the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during this conflict and to commemorate the 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam by observing Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30, 2011.

**H. Commemorating the 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States and Commending Its Members for Their Outstanding Contributions to Our Nation (Resolution No. 397, Ramos)**

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. was founded in 1896 and is the oldest veterans' organization in the country, chartered by Congress in 1958. Through its hospital rehabilitation and veterans' service programs, the Jewish War Veterans assists veterans and their dependents in many ways. It maintains veterans' service offices, staffed by professionals in major cities throughout the country. This resolution commemorates the 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

**I. Commending the United Service Organization (USO) Upon the Occasion of its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Resolution No. 753, Cusick)**

The mission of the United Service Organization (USO) is to provide morale, welfare, and recreational services to United States Armed Services members and their families, extending to them a touch of home. It accomplishes this through a variety of troop support programs and services, many of them in effect since the organization's beginnings 70 years ago. USO family and community centers have been established worldwide, helping military families deployed overseas adjust to their new surroundings with information on child care, employment, parenting, and recreational activities, as well as providing support groups and family crisis counseling. These centers also try to bridge the gap between the American military and their host community and offer orientation programs for intercultural understanding. This resolution commends the USO upon the occasion of its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**J. Commending The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Department of New York Upon The Occasion of Hosting Their 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention (Resolution No. 283, Ramos)**

The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Department of New York, is an organization of mothers whose sons and daughters died while in service of the Armed Forces of the United States. The members provide support for each other and perform volunteer work, much of which is at Veterans Administration hospitals around New York State. The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., was formed in 1928 by mothers of soldiers killed in World War I and got its name from the practice of displaying a gold star, instead of traditional mourning attire, by a mother whose son or daughter had made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. The organization has expanded to include mothers whose children have died during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Their 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was held at the Fort William Henry Hotel in Lake George, New York, on April 15-17, 2011. This resolution commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Department of New York.

**K. Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20, of Rochester, New York, on June 11, 2011 (Resolution No. 641, Bronson)**

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20, based in Rochester, New York, is one of the largest, most active, and longest standing local chapters of the National Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., a not-for-profit veterans service organization chartered by the United States Congress. The central focus of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20, has been involved in numerous community-based projects and causes; through its volunteer and charitable support, the chapter helps dozens of local organizations carry on work for children, the handicapped, the homeless, and many others. This resolution commemorates the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20, of Rochester, New York, on June 11, 2011.

**L. Honoring Jewish Chaplains Who Have Died in the Line of Duty (Resolution No. 362, Lavine)**

Thirteen Jewish chaplains have died while on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. Chaplains' Hill in Arlington National Cemetery memorializes the names of 242 chaplains who perished while on active duty. None of the thirteen Jewish chaplains who have died while on active duty are memorialized on Chaplains' Hill. This resolution recognizes and honors the service of the Jewish chaplains who died in service of their faith and their country and commends the United States Congress in its fight to find an appropriate site on Chaplains' Hill in Arlington National Cemetery to honor the memory of the Jewish chaplains who died while on active duty.

**M. Commemorating June 14, 2011, as Flag Day, and June 22, 2011, as the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Official Recognition of the Pledge of Allegiance (Resolution No. 681, Ramos)**

The American flag, symbol of the Republic for 235 years, has undergone many changes over its history. Flag Day was officially established by a proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916; while Flag Day was celebrated in various communities after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14<sup>th</sup> each year as Flag Day. The Pledge of Allegiance received official recognition by the United States Congress on June 22, 1942, when it was included in the United States Flag Code. This resolution commemorates June 14<sup>th</sup> as Flag Day, and June 22<sup>nd</sup> as the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Official Recognition of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**N. Commemorating Veterans Day on November 11, 2011, in the State of New York (Resolution No. 705, Ramos)**

Veterans Day is the day we stop and honor the men and women who have served in the United States armed forces. This resolution commemorates this very special day, November 11, 2011, in the State of New York.



## **VII. HONORING SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

### **A. Commending First Lieutenant David Provencher Upon the Occasion of His Designation as A Recipient of a Silver Star by the United States Army (Resolution No. 144, Cahill)**

United States Army First Lieutenant David Provencher of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's First Brigade Combat Team received the Silver Star medal, the third highest award for valor in combat. First Lieutenant Provencher of Ellenville, New York, and an infantry platoon leader with the First Battalion, 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, is credited with saving the lives of three wounded soldiers and refusing to leave two others who were mortally wounded. His platoon was serving as the quick reaction force for a joint United States Special Forces and Afghan National Army commando operation in the volatile northern Afghanistan province of Kunduz on the morning of June 16, 2010. This resolution commends First Lieutenant David Provencher upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Silver Star by the United States Army.

### **B. Honoring Senior Chief Jared K. Tuxill Upon the Occasion of His Designation as a Recipient of a Silver Star from the United States Navy (Resolution No. 710, Finch)**

Senior Chief Jared K. Tuxill provided exceptional combat leadership while assigned to a Joint Task Force in Operation Enduring Freedom from August 2 to 15, 2009. Despite being wounded himself, he selflessly assisted in transferring the wounded members of his team to safety, undoubtedly saving their lives. Tuxill displayed great honor, unwavering courage, and exemplary valor and consequently has been designated as a recipient of one of the military's highest honors, the Silver Star. This resolution honors Senior Chief Jared K. Tuxill upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of a Silver Star from the United States Navy.

### **C. Commending Sergeant Bill Blessing Upon the Occasion of Receiving the Bronze Star Medal for his Meritorious Service During Operation Enduring Freedom (Resolution No. 93, Barclay)**

Sergeant Bill Blessing of Skaneateles, New York, is a squad leader in the Second Battalion of the 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and commands a team of three infantrymen. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, the fourth-highest military decoration awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by performing acts of heroism or meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. The medal was earned in August 2010, on an enemy-seeking mission in the northeast mountains of Afghanistan. This resolution commends Sergeant Bill Blessing upon the occasion of receiving the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious service during Operation Enduring Freedom.

**D. Commending United States Army Sergeant James T. Hackemer of Gowanda, New York, for his Courageous Actions During Operation Enduring Freedom (Resolution No. 297, Giglio)**

In March 2008, Sergeant James Hackemer was wounded while on patrol near Baghdad, along with two other soldiers, when a road side bomb detonated beside his armored vehicle. He earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Award while deployed. He undertook cognitive rehabilitation in both Richmond, Virginia, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. On April 3, 2011, at the Gowanda American Legion Post No. 409, in Gowanda, New York, a welcome home party was held to celebrate his return to New York State. This resolution commends United States Army Sergeant Hackemer for his courageous actions during Operation Enduring Freedom.

**E. Mourning the Untimely Death of the Men and Women Who Died in Iraq and Afghanistan in the Defense of Their Country**

Five resolutions were adopted to honor the men and women who were residents of New York State serving in the United States armed forces and were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Private First Class David R. Fahey, Jr.  
Specialist Blake D. Whipple  
Sergeant Kevin W. White  
Sergeant First Class Anthony Venetz, Jr.  
Lance Corporal Aaron M. Swanson**

**K.204, Katz  
K.114, Hayes  
K.693, Goodell  
K.159, Losquadro  
K.533, Goodell**

## **VIII. MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM VETERAN-RELATED EVENTS**

### **A. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Proclaim June 27, 2011, as PTSD Awareness Day in the State of New York (Resolution No. 748, Ramos)**

The incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in members of the military is rising as the United States Armed Forces conducts two wars, exposing hundreds of thousands of soldiers to traumatic life-threatening events. The federal Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that as many as 95 percent of veterans returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan have some form of post-traumatic stress disorder. Symptoms include nightmares, feeling numb, having difficulty experiencing love or closeness with others, feeling jittery or overly alert, having difficulty sleeping, experiencing anger or irritability, having difficulty concentrating, substance problems, and having feelings of despair or hopelessness. This resolution memorializes Governor Cuomo to proclaim June 27, 2011, as PTSD Awareness Day in the State of New York.

### **B. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Proclaim April 2011 as the Month of the Military Child (Resolution No. 319, Russell)**

New York State has a long-standing tradition of service in the armed forces of the United States. There are 1.7 million American children and youth under the age of 18 with a parent deployed in the military and approximately 900,000 with one or both parents deployed multiple times. April is designated as the Month of the Military Child to underscore the important role children play in the armed forces community. This resolution urges all citizens of New York State to display the Nation's flag for the month of April out of respect of all children whose parent or parents are on active military duty. The resolution also memorializes Governor Cuomo to proclaim April 2011 as the Month of the Military Child.

### **C. Memorializing Governor Andres M. Cuomo to Proclaim May 24, 2011, as Elmer Ellsworth Day in the State of New York, Paying Tribute to this Valiant Soldier and Patriot for His Ultimate Sacrifice to the Untied States of America (Resolution No. 189, Jordan)**

On May 24, 1861, a month and a half following the bombardment of Fort Sumter, Colonel Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, born in the Town of Malta in 1837 and raised in Mechanicville, New York, gave his life for this country. He was the first Union officer to die in the American Civil War. At the age of 24, Colonel Ellsworth received his fatal wound when he volunteered to go forth and tear down the huge Confederate flag at Alexandria, Virginia, which had been defiantly waving in full view of President Abraham Lincoln. Ellsworth succeeded in tearing down the flag but was killed while descending the stairs with it in his hands. His patriotism

moved countless thousands to volunteer in the Union forces. This resolution memorializes Governor Cuomo to proclaim May 24, 2011, as Elmer Ellsworth Day in the State of New York, paying tribute to this valiant soldier and patriot.

**D. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Proclaim April 9, 2011, as Yellow Ribbon Day (Resolution No. 287, Tedisco)**

The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel during times of crisis ensure our continued existence as a nation and embody the ideals of democracy. Many have devoted countless hours distributing yellow ribbons around the State of New York to heighten awareness of and support for the men and women who are serving our country, in addition to promoting unity and respect for those brave individuals who protect our freedom. This resolution memorializes Governor Cuomo to proclaim April 9, 2011, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York.

**E. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Proclaim May 1, 2011, as Silver Star Banner Day (Resolution No. 390, Burling)**

Silver Star Families of America was created to make sure that we remember the sacrifice of our wounded and ill by designing and manufacturing a Silver Star banner and flag. This mission of this project is that every time someone sees a Silver Star banner in the window or a Silver Star flag flying, people remember the military sacrifice for this great State and Nation. This resolution memorializes Governor Cuomo to proclaim May 1, 2011, as Silver Star Banner Day in the State of New York and to honor the members of our Armed Forces.

**F. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Proclaim May 16, 2011, as Blue Star Families Day (Resolution No. 453, McLaughlin)**

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., is a support organization for mothers of children serving or who have served in the military and dates back to World War II. The blue star flag was created in 1917 by an Army captain and quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in service. The symbol of the blue star surrounded by a red rectangle represents hope and pride. Blue Star Mothers is named after the signature blue stars that mothers hang in windows when their children are called to military service, both stateside and overseas. This resolution memorializes Governor Cuomo to proclaim May 16, 2011, as Blue Star Families Day in the State of New York.

## **IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **A. Subcommittee on Women Veterans**

The Subcommittee on Women Veterans sponsored the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Women Veterans' Recognition Day in the Assembly. The history of women's service in America's military conflicts is as old as our independence and as timeless as our reverence for freedom and democracy. As early as the American Revolutionary War and in every major American conflict thereafter, women have served honorably and courageously on behalf of our country. New Yorkers serving the military continue to demonstrate their professionalism, dedication, and skills, as well as their commitment to their country and its freedom. This year the Subcommittee honored the many accomplishments of women veterans, from those who served during World War II to the current tours of duty. A luncheon and roundtable discussion was held prior to the Chamber activities. Those who attended spoke about their time spent in the military, problems they have encountered since their time in military service and what the state can do to meet their needs as women veterans.

Assembly Resolution K.650 by Assemblywoman Addie Russell, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Women Veterans, was adopted memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2011, as Women Veterans Recognition Day in the State of New York.

The subcommittee also sponsored an additional resolution:

#### **Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the "Defense Sexual Trauma Response Oversight and Good Governance Act" (the Defense STRONG Act), H.R. 1529 (K. 600, Russell)**

The Defense Sexual Trauma Response Oversight and Good Governance Act, known as the Defense STRONG Act, H.R. 1529, seeks to expand legal rights and protections for service members who have been the victims of sexual assault. In 2010, there were 3,230 reported sexual assaults in the military. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that one in three women veterans report experiencing some form of military sexual trauma. The Defense STRONG Act would expand legal rights and protections for service members by: establishing a director of Sexual Assault and Response Office; requiring at least one full-time sexual assault response coordinator and one full-time sexual assault victim advocate within each military department; entitling any member of the military, or dependent of a member, who has been the victim of sexual assault to military legal assistance, whether he or she chooses to begin an official investigation or not; protecting communication between a member or dependent and victim advocates; providing for sexual assault prevention and response training at every level of professional military education; and providing the right to a base transfer for a victim of sexual assault. The resolution urges the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass H.R. 1529, the "Defense Sexual Trauma Response Oversight and Good Governance Act" (the Defense STRONG Act).

## **B. Public Hearings and Roundtables**

On September 28, 2011, the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Assembly Standing Committee on Labor, Legislative Commission on Skills Development and Career Education, and the Subcommittee on Women Veterans held a roundtable discussion to examine issues concerning veterans' unemployment. Although no clear conclusion was established, comments indicated that a number of factors contribute to the difficulty newly returned veterans encounter. Such factors include the number of deployments that military service members serve, the mental condition of the returning service members, and obstacles to readjustment after serving our nation in uniform. Among those who participated were representatives of the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, AMVETS Department of New York, Institution for Veterans and Families of Syracuse University, and the New York State Department of Labor.

On December 12, 2011, the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a public hearing in Albany, New York. The purpose was to review the implementation and effectiveness of programs established pursuant to Patriot Plan I, II, and III, and to examine their effect on recently returned veterans and their families. Among those who participated were the acting director of the New York State Division of Veteran Affairs, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York, and the Enlisted Association of the New York National Guard.

## **X. OUTLOOK FOR 2012**

The Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs is looking forward to a productive 2012. The Committee will continue to work with the Division of Veterans' Affairs, Division of Military and Naval Affairs, other State agencies, veterans' organizations, and individual veterans throughout New York State to develop programs and services to assist the veterans of this state.

The issues that the Committee intends to pursue including the following:

- reintegration of recently returning veterans from areas of combat into the community;
- disabled veteran treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration back into their community;
- the establishment of veteran mental health and outreach programs to help those veterans in need of specific care relating to mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and substance abuse;
- the increasing number of homeless among the veteran population;
- outreach to older veterans;
- increased outreach to women veterans to better identify and respond to their needs;
- the development of veterans' courts; and
- a plan to provide for long-term health care needs for veterans.

The Committee will continue to strive to uphold its responsibilities by addressing the needs of New York State's more than one million veterans and their families.

**APPENDIX A**

<u>FINAL ACTION</u>	<u>ASSEMBLY BILLS</u>	<u>SENATE BILLS</u>	<u>TOTAL BILLS</u>
<b>BILLS REPORTED WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT</b>			
TO FLOOR; NOT RETURNING TO COMMITTEE (FAVORABLE)	7	0	7
TO WAYS AND MEANS	7	0	7
TO CODES	1	0	1
TO RULES	3	0	3
TO JUDICIARY	1	0	1
TOTAL	19	0	19
<b>BILLS HAVING COMMITTEE REFERENCE CHANGED</b>			
TO <u>Aging</u>	1		1
Total	1		1
<b>SENATE BILLS SUBSTITUTED OR RECALLED</b>			
SUBSTITUTED		0	0
RECALLED		1	1
TOTAL		1	1
BILLS DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE	0	0	0
BILLS HELD FOR CONSIDERATION WITH A ROLL- CALL VOTE	0	0	0
BILLS NEVER REPORTED, HELD IN COMMITTEE	60	8	68
BILLS HAVING ENACTING CLAUSES STRICKEN	1		1
MOTIONS TO DISCHARGE LOST	0	0	0
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	81	9	90
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD	6		



**APPENDIX B**

**LISTS OF BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WERE SIGNED INTO LAW**

<b>BILL NO.</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
A.2411	Gabryszak	16	Allows each municipality to adopt a local law to a bulletin board used by veterans organizations, the Division of Veterans' Affairs, and the county or city veterans' service agencies to display information regarding veterans' benefits or upcoming veterans events in the community.
A.1608	Ortiz	489	Makes available to returning servicemen and women information on accident prevention courses approved by the commissioner of motor vehicles online, on the Division of Military and Naval Affairs website, and the Division of Veterans' Affairs website.
A.141-B	Paulin	499	Requires two members of the twenty-six member advisory council of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services to be veterans who served in a combat theater or combat zone of

			operations or who are serving the veteran population. This would apply to vacancies occurring on or after the effective date.
A. 6383	Lupardo	515	Clarifies and updates the duties of the women veterans' coordinator within the Division of Veterans' Affairs. Among the new requirements, the women veterans' coordinator would be required to promote events and activities that would recognize, educate, and honor women veterans.
A. 7697	Cusick	527	Authorizes municipalities to create a permit system for demonstrations occurring in the vicinity of a wake, funeral, burial, or memorial service. The measure would also authorize the Commissioner of the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to require that a permit be obtained for a demonstration at a funeral event held on state property.

**APPENDIX C**

**BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY**

<b>BILL No.</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
A. 37-A	Cusick	Would update the section of law directing agencies to seek information on the status of veterans receiving assistance to promote referral of veterans to agencies for benefits.
A. 959	Colton	Would require the director of the Division of Veterans' Affairs to develop a program relating to veteran educational speakers in consultation with the director of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Resource Center. Would require the distribution of informational pamphlets by mail or electronically to school districts describing the program, its purpose, and how to participate.
A. 2920	Sweeney	Would require all subdivisions of the State to inquire, when dealing with a client or customer, whether he/she or a family member is a veteran, and to inform veterans and their families of the services and opportunities made available by the Division of Veterans' Affairs.
A. 7166	Ramos	Would require the Division of Veterans' Affairs annual report to include an accounting of the number of veteran-owned small businesses in the State of New York.
A. 7660	Moya	Would require the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with

		the Office of the Aging, to review veterans programs offered by the Division to ensure that the needs of the state's aging population are being met and to develop improvements to such programs.
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