



Happy Holidays!  
*From*  
Assemblymember  
**Didi Barrett**

420 Warren St.  
Hudson, NY 12534

PRSR STD.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Albany, NY  
Permit No. 75

## December 2019

Dear Neighbor,

As we approach the final days of 2019, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the initiatives my office has accomplished this past year to make the Hudson Valley an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

As chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am committed to helping the brave men and women who fought to defend our country transition smoothly and safely back into civilian life. One of our big victories this year was enacting the Restoration of Honor Act, which extends the eligibility for state benefits to veterans who received a "less than honorable discharge" because they are LGBTQ, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or a traumatic brain injury, or are victims of military sexual trauma (Ch. 490 of 2019).

During the legislative session, I spearheaded new tenant protections, notably for residents of manufactured or mobile home parks. Manufactured housing in upstate NY provides a crucial source of affordable housing for thousands of local individuals, families and seniors who were often taken advantage of by unfair practices. Under the new regulations, these residents are protected from unreasonable jumps in rent, excessive fees, and unfair rent-to-own contracts (Ch. 36 of 2019).

I'm also committed to protecting the institutions that encourage our kids to grow, learn and build a bright future. I sponsored two bills to improve funding to our public libraries. The first directs critical construction grants to the libraries that need them most, especially those in low-income areas (Ch. 381 of 2019). The second allows libraries to submit joint grant applications to achieve cost savings and make taxpayer dollars go even further (Ch. 389 of 2019). Two libraries in my district opened new buildings earlier this year and I was thrilled to help both of them reach this goal. More than ever in the Hudson Valley, public libraries are pillars of our communities and many will play a critical role in the 2020 Census.

Agriculture remains a major economic driver for our region, and our Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot funded in the last state budget is set to kick off with the next spring planting season. As always, we continue to #GetTickedOff and support outreach and education to combat Lyme and tick-borne illnesses. I authored legislation to commence a study on insurance coverage for Lyme and passed a bill that will issue recommendations to our farmers on how to best protect against the dangerous Asian long-horned tick (A.6146, A.8098).

I love traveling the district to visit local farms and businesses, attending community events and talking with neighbors during my annual Diner Stop Tour. This year we held 10 stops where my team and I met with constituents to hear their concerns and answer questions. The Hudson Valley is my home, and as we head into the new year, I'll continue to do all that I can to create jobs, boost our economy, and help our beautiful region thrive.

My door is always open; if you have any questions or comments, please contact or visit my office. Wishing you and yours a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,



Didi Barrett  
Member of Assembly, 106<sup>th</sup> District



Assemblymember  
**Didi Barrett**

420 Warren St. • Hudson, NY 12534 • 518-828-1961  
12 Raymond Ave., Suite 105 • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 • 845-454-1703  
BarrettD@nyassembly.gov