

NEW YORK STATE
A S S E M B L Y

SHELDON SILVER, SPEAKER



committee on
Veterans' Affairs
William B. Magnarelli, Chair



Annual Report 2010

December 15, 2010

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 2010 Annual Report of the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

Several significant measures became law this year, including legislation that provides funeral directors, undertakers, and funeral firms in possession of cremated remains for more than one hundred and twenty days a method of determining if such remains are those of a veteran and how they may be disposed of, with the help of certain veterans' service organizations. This legislation will significantly facilitate the interment of veterans' unclaimed remains by removing the barriers that now exist, while effectively providing the legal protection necessary to funeral directors and veterans' organizations alike as part of this noble endeavor.

Some of the other measures enacted into law included: extension of the statute of limitations for cases based on torturous exposure of military personnel in Indo-china to phenoxy herbicide (Agent Orange); requiring the division of veterans' affairs to maintain a small business portal on the division's website; and the extension at local option of the redemption period for residential property for certain persons deployed by the military to four or five years. Under the same measure, a local government entity may waive fees, interest, and penalties on foreclosed residential real estate that is being redeemed if the

default was caused by financial hardship as a result of military activation or the owner was killed in action.

While some of our legislative goals were achieved this past session, much more remains to be done. In 2011, the Committee will focus on the returning veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Also among the issues the Committee will examine are homeless veterans and continued outreach to 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 and to you, Mr. Speaker, for your unwavering support for veterans.

Sincerely,

William B. Magnarelli
Member of Assembly

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

**Honorable William B. Magnarelli
Chair**

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Michael J. Cusick
Mark Schroeder
Donna Lupardo
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Louis R. Tobacco
David McDonough

Staff

Joanne Barker, Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy
Joanne B. Martin, Principal Analyst
Aaron Suggs, Associate Counsel
Zach Shapiro, Committee Assistant
Kathleen Quackenbush, Program and Counsel Secretary

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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 driving trucks in combat situations. 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 statute, 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 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 program, educational assistance for certain veterans and their family members, and a state veterans nursing home program. The Committee was represented at the remembrance ceremony held at the New York State Korean War Memorial in Albany, New York, honoring those who served in the war, to mark the 60th Anniversary of the conflict. The Committee was also represented at the American Legion Department of New York Convention held in Syracuse, New York, and the two New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs State Veteran Leaders meetings held in May and November.

This past Legislative session the Committee held six meetings at which it considered eighty bills and three resolutions. Seven bills passed both houses of the Legislature, four were signed into law, and three were vetoed.

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, Government Employees, Labor, 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 referenced to other Assembly standing committees and conduct joint public hearings with other committees.

II. 2010 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

A. Agent Orange Extender (A.9737, Espailat; Chapter 118 of the Laws of 2010)

Dioxin is a chemical contaminant that was contained in Agent Orange, a herbicide used for defoliation in Vietnam from 1962 until 1971, as well as along the demilitarized zones in Korea in 1968-69, and at Fort Drum, New York, in 1959.

Agent Orange received its name from orange painted on barrels containing the herbicide. Other herbicides were also named this way, e.g., Agents White, Blue, Green, and Purple. The barrels were color-coded to make identification easier for shippers and handlers.

Herbicide-spraying operations were conducted to clear vegetation, denying the enemy camouflage or cover for ambush. Herbicides were also used to destroy enemy food crops and to clear base perimeters, landing zones, waterways, and communication lines. An estimated 11 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed in Southeast Asia.

Of the nearly 440,000 Vietnam-era veterans in New York State, roughly 131,000 engaged in active duty in Southeast Asia. Thus, the number of veterans in New York State who were exposed may be very high.

Since the time this statute of limitations was first enacted in 1981, diseases and/or conditions have been recognized by the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs to be associated with Agent Orange. Among those cited include, but are not limited to: Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer, adult-onset diabetes mellitus (Type II), Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease, hairy-cell leukemia, chloracne (skin disorder), multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, respiratory cancers, and soft-tissue sarcoma. There is also suggestive evidence of a relation between hypertension and herbicide exposure.

In 1981, legislation was enacted to allow former members of the armed forces to initiate action to recover damages from personal injury caused by exposure to phenoxy herbicides (Agent Orange) within two years from the date of discovery of the injury or within two years from the date such injury should have been discovered, whichever is later.

This chapter extends to June 15, 2012, the deadline for filing suits against the producers of Agent Orange. Those persons whose injury or death was caused by contact with or exposure to phenoxy herbicides and who served as members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Indo-China from December 22, 1961, through May 7, 1975, may apply.

B. Veteran Remains
(A.10754-A, Magnarelli; Chapter 444 of the Laws of 2010)

To varying degrees, funeral directors find that they are left in possession of cremated remains which go unclaimed by any relative or loved ones, even after a funeral home routinely makes numerous efforts to contact the deceased's surviving family member, if any. Many of them are veterans who have served our nation with honor. Veterans who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces deserve a proper burial. There is a risk that veterans whose remains are unclaimed, and not identified as veterans, will be buried in pauper graves.

This chapter provides funeral directors, undertakers, and funeral firms in possession of cremated remains for more than one hundred and twenty days a method of determining, if such remains are those of a veteran and how they may be disposed of, if so, to allow the respectful disposition of such remains to take place with the assistance of certain veterans' service organizations.

C. Property Redemption for those Deployed by the Military
(A.8641-C, Espailat; Chapter 516 of the Laws of 2010)

Many service members experience hardship as a result of activation to duty and service to their country. Often, this hardship results in the foreclosure of the service member's home. They can already redeem this property.

However, this chapter extends at local option the redemption time period for residential property for certain persons deployed by the military to four or five years. It also allows any local government entity to waive fees, interest, and penalties for the redemption of foreclosed residential real estate caused by financial hardship as a result of military activation or the owner's death in action during activation.

D. Veteran-owned Business Opportunities
(A.7093-B, Espailat; Chapter 428 of the Laws of 2010)

Veterans in New York State have been and continue to be vital to the small business enterprises in the State. New York State seeks to assist veterans in playing a greater role in the economy by forming and expanding small business enterprises. One way to achieve this goal is to provide additional assistance and support to veterans to better inform them on how to become an owner of a small business and how to expand thereby enabling them to realize the American dream that they fought for and protected.

This chapter requires the Division of Veterans' Affairs to maintain a small business portal on its website and to provide links to appropriate government programs, including but not limited to the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Division may consult with the New York State Small Business Development Center and any other appropriate state agencies. The information may also be made available in printed form.

III. VETOES OF NOTE

A. **Creation of the New York State Interagency Coordinating Council (A.8296-A, Espaillat; Veto Memo 6757)**

This bill would create the New York State Interagency Coordinating Council for service-disabled veterans to provide accessible, coordinated, and specialized service to service-disabled veterans from multiplied state and local agencies.

In his veto message, the Governor contends that the creation of this council would replicate services already provided by the Federal government and that the Division of Veterans' Affairs and other state councils are already charged with addressing veterans' issues, including veterans that were disabled in active duty for our country. Also, there is no money within the enacted budget to fund the creation of such a council.

B. **Addition of Representatives to Advisory Council (A.10889, Paulin; Veto Memo 6721)**

This bill would add a veterans' provider representative and a veterans' consumer representative to the advisory council of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

In his veto memo, the Governor maintained that point that his executive budget sought to reduce the members of state advisory councils.

C. **Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act (A.11098, Magnarelli; Veto Memo 6786)**

This bill would require the New York State Veterans' Affairs Commission to develop and update, in consultation with the Office of Mental Health and the Department of Labor, a state interagency plan to improve outreach, assessment, and care for veterans and their families for mental health and/or substance abuse problems.

The Governor stated that the bill's mandate would be duplicative of the work that is already being carried out by the Division of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

IV. BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

A. The Division of Veterans' Affairs

1. Veteran Counseling Services Program

The Division of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) operates three principal programs. The largest is the Veterans Counseling 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 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.

The SFY 2010-11 State budget appropriated \$7,840,000 for services and expenses related to Veterans' Counseling Services Program.

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 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 2010-11 includes a sub-allocation of \$1,177,000 for the payment of aid to County and City Veterans Service Agencies.

Monroe 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 psychotherapy 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 2010-11 includes a sub-allocation of \$250,000 for the services and expenses related to the Veterans' Outreach Center, Inc.

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 allows for 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 2010-11 budget appropriated \$5,720,000 to this program. 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 Bureau is a unit within the Division. The Bureau 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. They are also responsible for approving on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs for the use of Veterans' Affairs educational benefits.

The SFY 2010-11 budget included a \$1,966,000 appropriation to operate this program.

4. Administration Program

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

The SFY 2010-11 budget appropriates \$1,337,000 for the expenses associated with the Administration Program.

4-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 2010-11 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.

4-b. Gold Star Parents

Gold Star parents have selflessly 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 now 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 USC 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 2010-11 budget sub-allocates \$599,000 to the payment of the Gold Star Parent annuities.

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 undergraduate study.

In the budget for SFY 2010-11, \$3,300,000 was included for this vital program.

2. NYS 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 2010-11, \$290,000 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.

C. New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

The Veterans' Tuition Awards Program

In 2008 the veterans' tuition assistance program was extensively modified. The new program provides payments for tuition up to the undergraduate cost of education at the State University of New York. Veterans attending classes on a part-time basis receive a pro-rated amount. To be considered eligible the veteran must have served in Vietnam, Afghanistan, or the Persian Gulf and must have received a discharge under honorable conditions. Additionally the veteran must be enrolled in either an accredited undergraduate program, graduate program, or an approved vocational training program.

The program expanded the eligibility criteria for veterans to qualify for this benefit. In addition to veterans from the Vietnam, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf conflicts, the newly expanded benefit includes veterans that have earned an Expeditionary Medal. This expansion will ensure that veterans that served in smaller conflicts such as Grenada and Lebanon will receive the same benefits as those who served in the larger conflicts.

In the SFY 2010-11 budget, \$39,150,000 was appropriated to cover the entire costs associated with the State's many scholarship programs. Included in this group appropriation is Veterans' Tuition Awards Program, which is authorized by Section 669-a of the Education Law.

V. BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

A. Veterans' Affairs Committee

1. Instructional Programs for American Military History (A.1532-A, Colton; Passed Assembly)

This bill would require the director of the Division of Veterans' Affairs, 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 educational program, to be circulated within school districts. The pamphlet would also list the available veteran speakers for the program who would be willing to share their military experience.

2. Veterans' Bulletin Board (A.3809-A, Gabryszak; Passed Assembly)

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

3. Expansion of the Veterans' Alternative Tax Exemption (A.5371, Cusick; Passed Assembly)

This bill would expand the veterans' alternative tax exemption so that it could apply to taxes levied by local school districts. It would allow those districts to conduct a public hearing regarding the tax exemption. After the hearing, the governing body of the school district could pass a resolution to provide the tax exemption. Qualified veterans living within a school district that passed the resolution would have the same tax exemption from their school district as they receive from their local tax district.

4. State Cold War Certificate (A.6456-A, Ortiz; Passed Assembly)

This bill would recognize the contribution of the men and women who served honorably during the Cold War by authorizing and awarding a State Cold War Certificate to these individuals.

5. Veteran-Owned Small Business Account (A.7063-A, Espailat; 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.

**6. Temporary Suspension on Loan Payments
(A.10023-A, Espaillat; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would extend the ability of members of military service to suspend their repayment of a loan to a retirement system while engaged in active service in the military from June 1, 2010, to June 1, 2012. For those members on military duty whose loans are deferred, the time for repayment of the unpaid member loan balances would be extended for a period of time equal to the length of their military duty.

**7. Services Available to Veterans
(A.11154, 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 shall 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?"

B. Aging Committee

**Review and Response of the Office for the Aging for the Veteran
Population
(A.11225, Dinowitz; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would direct the director of the New York 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 New York State's aging veteran population.

C. Government Operations Committee

**Military Leave for Public Employees
(A.5935, Towns; Passed Assembly)**

Under current law, public employees that are ordered to military duty shall continue to receive their civilian salary and/or other compensation for a period of time. This bill would extend the current time period for which they are reimbursed from thirty days or twenty-two working days to sixty days or fifty-two working days, whichever is greater.

D. Local Governments Committee

**Increased Municipal Support for Veterans' Posts
(A.5934, Towns; Passed Assembly)**

This bill would allow local town boards to appropriate an additional \$500 for a total of \$1,000 to support each post of a patriotic organization. In addition if the town does not have a post within its boundaries, but still has five or more citizens that belong to a post in an adjoining town then this bill would allow the town to appropriate an additional \$175 for a total of \$300 to support the post in the adjoining town. These appropriations are to be used to defray the costs of renting or maintaining an area for holding meetings.

**VI. BILLS REPORTED BY OTHER COMMITTEES THAT BECAME
LAW**

A. Election Committee

**Military and Absentee Ballots
(A.10681-B, Silver; Chapter 104 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law enacts certain provisions that are required by federal law and is intended to increase the opportunity for military and special federal voters to cast their votes within a time frame that allows those votes to be counted. It also streamlines the absentee ballot application to eliminate extraneous information that is not required by the New York constitution.

B. Higher Education Committee

**SUNY Upstate Medical University Study
(A.8173-A, Destito; Chapter 239 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law directs the president of the State University of New York Upstate Medical University to conduct a study to explore the viability and compelling need for branch campuses of the State University of New York Upstate Medical University in the Fort Drum/Watertown and Mohawk Valley Regions of New York State.

C. Housing Committee

**Preference to Veterans by Certain Housing Companies
(A.9501-A, Gianaris; Chapter 399 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law recognizes and honors the service of veterans in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other recent conflicts by using the statutory criteria in the Civil Service Law for providing preferences in admission to Mitchell-Lama housing to veterans and their surviving spouses.

D. Environmental Conservation Committee

**Hunting Authorization for Military Service Personnel
(A.924-E, DelMonte; Chapter 483 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law authorizes the Department of Environmental Conservation to promulgate standards authorizing hunting with a crossbow, including hunting by military service personnel and disabled veterans.

**Transfer of Lifetime License
(A.11312, Sweeney; Chapter 507 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law allows the transfer of a lifetime license for hunting, fishing, and trapping upon the death of the purchaser within the first year of purchase, or when an active member of the United States Armed Forces dies in combat.

E. Transportation Committee

**Sampson Veterans Memorial Highway
(A.8961-B, Kolb; Chapter 285 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law designates a portion of State Route 96A in Seneca County as “Sampson Veterans Memorial Highway.”

**Cpl. Paulo Marko Pacificado Memorial Bridge
(A.9734-A, Thiele; Chapter 290 of the Laws of 2010)**

The bridge on the William Floyd Parkway that crosses over State Route 27 in the town of Brookhaven shall be designated and known as “Cpl. Paulo Marko Pacificado Memorial Bridge.”

**National Veterans Highway
(A.9939-A, DelMonte; Chapter 251 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law designates all that portion of the state highway system constituting United States Route 62 within the State of New York as the “National Veteran’s Highway.”

**Lt. Joseph J. Theinert Memorial Way
(A.11501, Alessi; Chapter 307 of the Laws of 2010)**

This law designates a portion of New York State Route 114 in the Town of Shelter Island, County of Suffolk, as “Lt. Joseph J. Theinert Memorial Way.”

VII. HONORING VETERANS THROUGH LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

A. Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to Pass H.R. 2138 (Resolution No. 1235, Magnarelli)

The “Services, Education and Rehabilitation for Veterans Act” would provide grants to establish veterans’ treatment courts. Grants under this legislation would be made to veterans’ treatment courts and drug courts serving veterans, which effectively integrate substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting, with jurisdiction over nonviolent, substance-abusing offenders that have served in the United States military. Studies have shown that 30 to 40 percent of the 1.6 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan will face serious mental health injuries, and, because there are no visible scars, they can lead to other traumatic injuries. This resolution urges the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the “Services, Education and Rehabilitation for Veterans Act.”

B. Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to Ensure the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System Establish Limitations on Utilization and Disposal of Properties and Buildings in the State of New York (Resolution No. 1303, Magnarelli)

Veterans of the United States armed services from New York State who have served their country so honorably have had the most comprehensive system of assistance at their disposal of any nation in the world. It is critical that the policies of the Federal Department of Veterans’ Affairs reflect a policy that places the continued needs of New York veterans and the community in the forefront of that consideration. This resolution calls upon the New York State Congressional delegation to encourage the Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to continue to provide for all the needs of veterans in New York State at all the facilities operated by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in the State. This includes enacting policy to retain all properties currently used by the VA and to ensure that enhanced leases of properties and buildings include a provision of services for veterans, including those of limited financial means.

C. Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Pass H.R. 4197, “The Gold Star Mothers National Monument Act” (Resolution No. 1034, Espailat)

During World War I, mothers of sons and daughters who served in the United States Armed Forces displayed flags bearing a blue star to represent their pride in family and their hope of their children’s safe return home. For more than 60,000 of these mothers, that hope was shattered, and many of them began to display flags bearing a gold star to represent the sacrifice that their son or daughter made. The Gold Star Mothers National Monument Act of 2009 would authorize the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a monument on federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs, as a unit of the national park service. This resolution memorializes the U.S. Congress to pass “The Gold Star Mothers National Monument Act of 2009.”

**D. Commending the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs 65th Anniversary
(Resolution No. 1216, Espaillat)**

On April 11, 1945, the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs was created as part of the Executive Department to assist veterans, members of the armed forces, their families, and dependents in securing benefits earned through military service. The Division has pursued its mission for the 65 years it has served the community of veterans of New York by reaching out to those within the community and by initiation and implementation of activities that encourage them to access their rightfully earned entitlements and benefits. This resolution commends the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs upon the occasion of celebrating its 65th Anniversary.

**E. Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War
(Resolution No. 1518, Magnarelli)**

On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. In response, the United Nations called for assistance to the Republic of Korea, and 482,000 of the over five million troops called on were from New York State. A number of those who went into combat lost their lives battling for their State and Nation so valiantly and honorably in the defense of freedom and democracy during the Korean Conflict. This resolution recognizes the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War.

**F. Honoring Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 140, Orange County, upon the Celebration of its 25th Anniversary
(Resolution No. 1028, Calhoun)**

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to the well-being of all veterans of the Vietnam era and their families. Chartered on April 12, 1985, Orange County Chapter 140 works diligently to increase public awareness of the circumstances of Vietnam veterans through community involvement, education, and Chapter programs. The Chapter helps raise funds for and participates in and supports the work of many worthy area organizations and causes. This resolution honors the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 140 upon the occasion of their 25th Anniversary on April 17, 2010.

**G. Commemorating the 235th Birthday of the United States Army
(Resolution No. 1487, Castelli)**

The Continental Army was formed 235 years ago with the goals of ending tyranny and winning freedom for the colonists in what has become the United States of America. Since the end of the American Revolution, our Nation's soldiers have demonstrated their allegiance to our Nation through their sacrifices while in uniform. All of the United States Army units, active, Guard, and Reserve share the heritage of the Continental Army, and our Nation's soldiers represent the finest men and women our country has to

offer. This resolution commemorates the 235th Birthday of the United States Army and the sacrifices many men and women in our history have made for the freedom of our Nation.

H. Commemorating June 14, 2010, as Flag Day, and June 22, 2010, as the 66th Anniversary of the Official Recognition of the Pledge of Allegiance (Resolution No. 1499, Magnarelli)

The American flag, symbol of the Republic for 234 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 14th 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 14th as Flag Day, and June 22nd as the 66th Anniversary of the Official Recognition of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps (Resolution No. 1517, Magnarelli)

In the course of American military history, the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps is legendary for its contributions to the United States Army and our nation. First organized in 1960 to support ceremonial functions of the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment and to revive our country's musical heritage, the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps has grown to become one of our armed service's most treasured units. Beginning in February 2010, it will begin a year-long celebration marking 50 years of dedicated service to the United States Army and nation. This resolution commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.

J. Honoring Dawn Seymour in Receiving the WWII Congressional Gold Medal (Resolution No. 1168, Errigo)

Dawn Seymour of South Bristol, New York, was one of the original Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS) pilots. The WAFS was one of the pioneering organizations of civilian female pilots employed to fly military aircraft under direction of the United States Army Air Force during World War II. Over fifty percent of the ferrying of combat aircraft within the United States during the war was carried out by WAFS pilots, and 38 lost their lives while serving during the war. On July 1, 2009, President Barack Obama and the United States Congress awarded these pilots the Congressional Gold Medal. This resolution honors Dawn Seymour as one of the World War II WASP female pilots to receive the Congressional Medal on March 10, 2010.

**K. Honoring Erling “Bumpy” J. Taylor on Receiving the 2010 Legionnaire of the Year Award
(Resolution No. 1611, Castelli)**

Bumpy Taylor is a life member of the American Legion, and was elected and served as Post Commander three terms at different intervals. He was instrumental in organizing fundraisers to finance the construction of the Post’s present Post facility in the 1950s, a Post band, and overseeing the renovation of the Post facility. Taylor served during WWII in an Army Battalion from 1941-1945 that provided ground support for the Air Force during the Battle of Coral Sea. He was also instrumental in organizing the first volunteer fire department in the 1930s. This resolution recognizes Erling “Bumpy” Taylor in receiving the 2010 Legionnaire of the Year Award on June 5, 2010.

**L. Honoring James A. Haggerty upon his Designation as Recipient of the 2010 Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award
(Resolution No. 1053, McEneny)**

James A. Haggerty served honorably as a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1951 to 1954. He is an exemplary community leader who has devoted himself to advancing the issues of veterans’ benefits and entitlements, and is also committed to personal involvement to address current solutions to economic, medical, employment, or educational improvements for veterans and their dependents. Haggerty collected donations to the Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albany, the New York State Military Heritage Institute, the Capital District Food Pantry, and the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. This resolution recognizes James A. Haggerty as the recipient of the 2010 Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award for his outstanding participation and service in activities that exemplify the principles of the award, presented by the Jewish War Veterans Post 105.

**M. Honoring Michael Militello on Receiving the Purple Heart
(Resolution No. 1148, Hayes)**

Michael Militello was drafted into the United States Army while a student at the University of Buffalo and assigned to the storied 25th Infantry Division. During an ambush on the front lines in Vietnam on August 13, 1968, Militello sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was struck by shrapnel from a grenade while helping drive attackers out into the open. For his efforts, Militello was awarded the Purple Heart, along with the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Expert Infantryman Badge with Machine Gun and Rifle bars. This resolution recognizes all of his major accomplishments and the great debt that is owed to him for serving our nation.

**N. Commending Anthony Zippo for his Service to the Orange County Veterans Cemetery
(Resolution No. 1210, Rabbitt)**

For ten years, Anthony Zippo was the Local Veterans Employment Representative for the New York State Department of Labor, monitoring service to veterans and assisting them in finding employment. For the past ten years, Zippo has held the position of Director of the Orange County Veterans Service Agency. An accredited representative of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Zippo is also the county treasurer for the American Legion, and the treasurer for RECAP and the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. This resolution commends Anthony Zippo upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition for his distinguished service to the Orange County Veterans Cemetery.

**O. Commending the Albany-Saratoga Base of the United States Submarine Veterans
(Resolution No. 1604, Tedisco)**

The Albany-Saratoga Base of the United States Submarine Veterans, through the organization it created known as the Albany-Saratoga Sub Vets Memorial Foundation, Inc., dedicated a memorial to the New York State submariners who lost their lives while serving their country in the submarine service. The Memorial will be located in the Veterans Memorial Park in Ballston Spa, New York, and will be the first Submariners Memorial in the Nation. This resolution commends the base for their designation of a Memorial to those who lost their lives.

**P. Honoring George A. Lutz
(Resolution No. 1642, Magnarelli)**

George Lutz's son George Anthony Lutz, II (Tony), was killed by a sniper's bullet while he was on patrol in Iraq on December 29, 2005. In the months following his son's funeral, his father visited other families who had lost their loved ones in the War on Terror. George Lutz designed the National Honor and Remember Flag to recognize all individuals who have died as a result of serving in the United States military dating back to the founding of our Nation. The flag was unveiled at a ceremony on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008, at the MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk, Virginia. This resolution honors George A. Lutz for ensuring the memory of all individuals who have died as a result of serving the United States military dating back to the founding of our Nation.

**Q. Honoring Adjutant General Joseph Taluto on His Retirement
(Resolution No. 1085, Destito)**

Major General Joseph Taluto retired after a 44-year career with the National Guard in which he rose from a private to a two-star general, and was appointed to Adjutant General of New York in 2006 after serving as the commander of a combat division in Iraq in 2005. Taluto advocated for the successful creation of a second National Guard

team designed to detect the use of chemical and biological weapons known as a Civil Support Team in New York. He also organized a special 350-member National Guard unit that is trained to extract, decontaminate, and treat victims of a terrorist attack. Known as a CERFP for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, High-yield Explosives, Enhance Reaction Force Package, it became the second of 17 in the nation to be certified as ready. Taluto also monitored the reorganization of the task force of New York National Guard soldiers and airmen focused on planning for many missions in the metropolitan area. This resolution honors Major Joseph Taluto upon the occasion of his retirement after 44 years of distinguished service to the National Guard, including his service as adjutant general.

VIII. HONORING SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

A. Honoring Lance Corporal Marcus Lounello of the United States Marine Corps (Resolution No. 1516, McEneny)

Deployed to Afghanistan on December 14, 2009, as a member of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Lance Corporal Marcus Lounello suffered serious internal injuries in May 2010 during initial surge operations by United States Armed Forces in and around Marjah, Afghanistan. After weeks of treatment, Lance Corporal Lounello recuperated in Albany, New York. This resolution honors Lance Corporal Marcus Lounello upon the occasion of his courage and bravery during combat operations in Afghanistan.

B. Honoring Staff Sergeant Travis G. Middaugh (Resolution No. 1433, Giglio)

Travis Middaugh enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May 23, 2003. Upon graduation from Parris Island, PFC Middaugh reported to the Second Marine Divisions School of Infantry in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and was eventually awarded with Meritorious Promotion to the rank of Lance Corporal. During his first deployment to Iraq, Lance Corporal Middaugh served as a demolitions and anti-armor identifications expert, participated in seven combat operations, where he distinguished himself as a subject matter expert in his field. Upon promotion to sergeant in 2007, Middaugh volunteered to deploy to Al Anbar multiple times and demonstrated bravery in conducting combat operations that increased the security of the region. This resolution recognizes Staff Sergeant Travis G. Middaugh for his bravery while serving in Iraq with the United States Marine Corps.

C. Commending Colonel Stephen V. Smith (Resolution No. 1376, Brook-Krasny)

Deployed to Bosnia as the 10th Mountain G4 Plans Officer, Colonel Stephen Smith was also Executive Officer of the 10th Division Support Command as well as the G4 for the 10th Mountain Division where he was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001. From June of 2002 until June 2004, he served in Korea as the Battalion Commander of the 498th Corps Support Battalion. Among his many awards are the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal, and many others that recognize his tremendous service to our nation. This resolution commends Colonel Stephen V. Smith for his outstanding service to the United States Army.

**D. Honoring Chief Petty Officer Jeremy K. Torrissi
(Resolution No. 1297, Barclay)**

As a hospital corpsman with the United States Marine Corps Forces, Special Operations Command, Chief Petty Officer Torrissi was on his third deployment to Afghanistan when he and his team became involved in a fire fight on June 26, 2008. When other hospital corpsman had been badly injured, Torrissi sprang into action amid enemy fire to administer aid to those in the rear vehicles, while continuously defending members of the team. On that day, Torrissi's actions saved the lives of four people and resulted in him being awarded the Silver Star Medal. This resolution honors Chief Petty Officer Jeremy K. Torrissi upon the occasion of receiving the Silver Star Medal.

**E. Honoring Staff Sergeant Geralyn J. Schoenle
(Resolution No. 1145, Hawley)**

Staff Sergeant Geralyn J. Schoenle was named New York State Air National Guard Airman of the Year, the 107th Airlift Wing Airman of the Year, and the Air Mobility Command ISR Component Airman of the Year. In doing so she became a triple military star. Sergeant Schoenle has orders of deployment to Mississippi, where she will help train the next generation of intelligence specialists to be sent to Afghanistan or other spots around the world where the 107th Airlift Wing may be sent. This resolution honors Staff Sergeant Geralyn J. Schoenle upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as the Air National Guard Airman of the Year.

**F. Honoring Sergeant Sean Cronin
(Resolution No. 1305, Lupardo)**

Sergeant Sean Cronin is an administrative non-commissioned officer with the 204th Engineer Battalion in Binghamton, New York. He was named the New York Army National Guard's best full-time non-commissioned officer for 2010 after participating in a competition at the National Guard Headquarters in Latham, New York. As a member of the Active Guard and Reserve force, Sergeant Cronin is a full-time soldier and has received the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon. This resolution honors Sergeant Sean Cronin upon being named the New York Army National Guard's best full-time Non-Commissioned Officer for 2010.

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

Nine 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 Taylor Miller
Specialist Jason M. Johnston
Specialist Benjamin D. Osborn
Sergeant Frank J. A. World
Sergeant Jason Santora
Staff Sergeant Amy Seyboth Tiradir
Staff Sergeant Keith R. Bishop
Lance Corporal Timothy G. Serwinowski
Lieutenant Joseph J. Theinert

K1629, Jordan
K828, Hawley
K1584, Sayward
K1612, Hoyt
K1343, Murray
K844, Reilly
K1370, Murray
K1598, Schimminger
K1613, Alessi

IX. MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM VETERAN-RELATED EVENTS

**A. Memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to Proclaim April 2010 as the Month of the Military Child
(Resolution No. 1195, Russell)**

New York State has a long-standing tradition of serving 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 serving 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 for all children whose parent or parents are on active military duty. The resolution also memorializes Governor Paterson to proclaim April 2010 as the Month of the Military Child.

**B. Memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to Proclaim April 9, 2010, Yellow Ribbon Day
(Resolution No. 1071, Tedisco)**

The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel during times of crisis ensure our continued role 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 Paterson to proclaim April 9, 2010, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York.

**C. Memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to Proclaim May 2010 as Military Appreciation Month
(Resolution No. 1383, Stirpe)**

New York State residents have a long-standing tradition of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, with thousands giving their lives in defense of their country. In 2004, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed a resolution designating the month of May as "National Military Appreciation Month" and called upon the President to issue each year a proclamation as such, calling on the people of the United States to honor the dedicated service provided by those in the Armed Forces. It is fitting to raise awareness of the sacrifices the brave men and women of the military have made in order to preserve our liberty. This resolution memorializes Governor Paterson to proclaim May 2010 as Military Appreciation Month in New York State.

**D. Memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to Proclaim the Week Prior to Veteran's Day as Veterans Awareness Week
(Resolution No. 1445, Sweeney)**

Throughout our nation's history, the men and women of America's armed forces have preserved our freedom, protected our security, and upheld our democratic values. The true meaning of Veteran's Day may not receive enough attention on the one-day holiday set aside for this purpose. This resolution would draw further attention to those who have made incredible sacrifices for our country. During this week to honor veterans, schools could spend more time on programs describing the reasons men and women were asked to serve our country, as well as the encouragement to attend various memorial services for those who perished.

X. OTHER ACTIVITIES BY THE COMMITTEE

A. Subcommittee on Women Veterans

The Subcommittee on Women Veterans sponsored the 16th 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 the country. More than 212,000 female servicemembers have been deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, making up to eleven percent of the force there from the United States. Over 120 of those women have given their lives and more than 600 have been wounded in action. June 12 is Women Veterans' Recognition Day, the date that President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, that females were allowed to serve a permanent role in the active and reserve branches and were no longer relegated to serving in "women's components" during times of war. During the Equal Rights Movement, many of the remaining limitations on female participation in the Armed Forces disappeared, particularly with the advent of the All-Volunteer Force in 1973. In the last two decades, legislative and Department of Defense positions became available to women and these opportunities vary by service. For example, the ban on women serving on submarines was lifted in April 2010, and they could start serving as early as 2011. On Women Veterans' Recognition Day, local Assembly members were asked by the chair of the Subcommittee to invite and introduce one women veteran in their district. This year's honorees were Adrienne Daniels, Senior Chief Petty Officer, Navy (McEneny); Lillian Yonally, Women's Air Force Service Pilots, WASP (Reilly); Leslie A. Fleur, Hospital Corpsman First Class, Seabee Combat Warfare Navy (Sayward); Wanda Hunterm, Corporal, U.S. Marine Corp (Amedore) and Elena Rozier, Captain, U.S. Marine Corp (Amedore).

Assembly Resolution K 1475 (Lupardo) was adopted memorializing Governor David A. Paterson to proclaim June 12, 2010, as Women's Veterans Recognition Day" in the State of New York.

The subcommittee also sponsored two other resolutions.

1. Paying Tribute to the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) (K 1477, Lupardo)

The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) was established during World War II with the primary mission of flying noncombat military missions in the United States, thus freeing their male counterparts for combat missions overseas. The WASPs were the first women ever to fly American military aircraft. They flew almost every type of aircraft operated by the Army Air Force during World War II, logging more than 60 million miles. They did not receive veterans' status until 1977. Legislation was signed into law in July 2009 by President Obama to award the Congressional Gold

Medal to the members of the WASP. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest award Congress bestows upon a civilian. WASPs who qualify for the medal are women who flew under operational flight orders for the Army Air Force during World War II and were officially named WASP by order of General Hap Arnold, Commanding General of the Army Air Force. This resolution pays tribute to the Women Airforce Service Pilots who received the Congressional Gold Medal.

2. Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to Pass H.R. 1522, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Equity Act (K 1418, Jaffee)

The United States Cadet Nurse Corps was a program established by the federal government in 1943 with the primary purpose of ensuring that the United States had enough nurses to care for the needs of its citizens on both the home and war fronts. This program contributed to a dramatic rise in the number of nursing students, a greater public recognition of nurses, and changes in the manner in which nurses were educated and trained. The Nurse Training Act, known as the Bolton Act of 1943, created the United States Cadet Nurse Corps which offered an innovative solution to the pressing shortage of nurses at the start of World War II. It offered tuition and other financial incentives and a quick way to train a corps of nurses who would temporarily free graduate nurses for military duty. H.R. 1522, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Equity Act, would provide that services of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The resolution urges the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass H.R. 1522, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Equity Act.

B. Public Hearings

On February 22, 2010, the New York State Assembly Standing Committees on Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and on Veterans' Affairs held a public hearing in Albany, New York, on services for New York State veterans with co-occurring disorder, a mental illness and substance abuse disorder that present themselves simultaneously. Those who testified included representatives of the Division of Veterans' Affairs, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the New York State Office of Mental Health, and several not-for-profit organizations that provide counseling services to veterans. This hearing provided the basis for two key pieces of legislation: the "Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act" (A.11098/S7961, Magnarelli/Adams) and a mental illness and chemical dependency initiative designed to eliminate stigma and misinformation (A.11054/S8062, Ortiz/Adams).

On November 5, 2010, the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a public hearing in Syracuse, New York. The purpose was to review the implementation of programs funded in the most recent State budget and to

review and evaluate the ways in which the State can more effectively assist veterans in locating and obtaining access to services for veterans and to evaluate the State's role and response to the increasing number of veterans who are at risk of developing mental health problems. Among those who provided testimony were representatives of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs, the Office of Mental Health, the New York State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York, and the American Legion Department of New York. It was suggested that a list of agencies that help veterans be developed for each county and be distributed to all agencies in that particular area to be used as a reference in helping veterans.

XI. OUTLOOK FOR 2011

The Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs is looking forward to a productive year in 2011. 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 include the following:

- reintegration of recently returning veterans from areas of combat into the community;
- disabled veteran treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration back into their communities;
- 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, and substance abuse;
- the increasing number of homeless amongst 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

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO
The Assembly Committee on Veterans' Affairs**

<u>FINAL ACTION</u>	<u>ASSEMBLY BILLS</u>	<u>SENATE BILLS</u>	<u>TOTAL BILLS</u>
BILLS REPORTED WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT			
TO FLOOR; NOT RETURNING TO COMMITTEE (FAVORABLE)	1		1
TO WAYS AND MEANS	10		10
TO CODES	2		2
TO RULES	1		1
TO JUDICIARY			
TOTAL	14		14
BILLS HAVING COMMITTEE REFERENCE CHANGED			
TO <u>Aging</u>	1		1
Total	1		1
SENATE BILLS SUBSTITUTED OR RECALLED			
SUBSTITUTED			
RECALLED			
TOTAL			
BILLS DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE			
BILLS HELD FOR CONSIDERATION WITH A ROLL- CALL VOTE	24		24
BILLS NEVER REPORTED, HELD IN COMMITTEE	40	2	42
BILLS HAVING ENACTING CLAUSES STRICKEN	1		1
MOTIONS TO DISCHARGE LOST			
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	80	2	82
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD	6		

APPENDIX B

LIST OF BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WERE SIGNED INTO LAW

BILL No.	Sponsor	Chapter	Description
A.7093-B	Espaillet	428	Requires the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to maintain a small business portal on the Division's website and to provide a virtual link to appropriate government programs, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs.
A.8641-C	Espaillet	516	Extends the local option for the redemption time period for residential property for certain persons deployed by the military to four or five years. It also allows any local government entity to waive fees, interest, and penalties for the redemption of foreclosed residential real estate caused by financial hardship, as a result of military activation or if the owner was killed in active duty.
A.9737	Espaillet	118	Extends the deadline for individuals to file to recover damages from injury or death related to the exposure to phenoxy herbicides, more commonly known as Agent Orange.
A.10754-A	Magnarelli	444	Provides a method for funeral directors, undertakers, and funeral firms who are in possession of cremated remains to determine if such remains are those of a veteran, and if so, to allow the respectful disposal of such cremated remains.

APPENDIX C

LIST OF BILLS THAT PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND WERE VETOED

Bill No.	Sponsor	Veto Memo	Description
A.8296-A	Espaillet	6757	Would create the New York State Interagency Coordinating Council for service-disabled veterans to provide accessible, coordinated, and specialized service from multiple state and local agencies.
A.10889	Paulin	6721	Would add a veterans' provider representative and a veterans' consumer representative to the advisory council of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).
A.11098	Magnarelli	6786	Would require the New York State Veterans' Affairs Commission to develop and update, in consultation with the Office of Mental Health and the Department of Labor, a state interagency plan to improve outreach, assessment, and care for veterans and their families for mental health and/or substance abuse problems.

APPENDIX D

BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

BILL No.	Sponsor	Description
A.1532-A	Colton	Would require the director of the Division of Veterans' Affairs to develop a program relating to veteran educational speakers. Would require the distribution of informational pamphlets to school districts describing the program, its purpose, and how to participate.
A.3809	Gabryszak	Would allow each municipality to adopt a local law to provide 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.5371	Cusick	Would alter the veterans' alternative tax exemption by allowing local school districts to also provide the same exemption to local school taxes if passed by a local law.
A.6456-A	Ortiz	Would recognize the men and women who served honorably during the Cold War by authorizing and awarding a State Cold War Certificate to these individuals.
A.7063-A	Espaillet	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.11154	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.10023-A	Espaillet	Would extend the ability of members of military service to suspend their repayment of a loan to a retirement system while engaged in active service in the military from June 1, 2010, to June 1, 2012.