



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

Senator Martins Votes to Create New Panel to Support Aging Veterans

JACK M. MARTINS May 16, 2011

| ISSUE: **AGING**

The New York State Senate approved legislation to help older veterans by creating an advisory committee that specifically assists state officials in addressing important veterans issues. New York has the second highest veteran population in the United States and bill S.3337, supported by Senator Jack M. Martins, focuses on improving the care and state support available to aging veterans by creating a panel of gerontology and veterans' issue experts.

"Our veterans have done so much to ensure our freedom. We need to make certain they receive the best care and support programs. I was proud to have supported this legislation," said Senator Martins. "It's an opportunity to show our veterans we will never forget the sacrifices they made for us."

Older veterans represent a population in New York whose needs and problems pervade multiple geriatrics and gerontology disciplines. This legislation establishes a Veterans Gerontological Advisory Committee, which will advise the Director of the state Office for the Aging on policies, programs, services and trends affecting New York's aging veteran population.

At no cost to the taxpayers, the advisory committee will be able to provide crucial recommendations aimed at improving the care and support available to aging veterans. The membership will be drawn from the ranks of New York's finest experts on aging, seniors' and veterans' issues, representing medical researchers, practitioners, academia, and veterans' organizations.

Their mission will be to share information and challenges associated with caring for aging veterans and their families. The panel would provide the Office for the Aging with guidance on pressing concerns including caregiver initiatives, alternative housing trends for veterans, long term and continuing care, health promotion and rehabilitation, departmental research and dementia research. The committee can also play a role in educating staff and the public on a wide range of issues affecting veterans and seniors.

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.