



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## 'Jobs for Heroes' Bill Cosponsored by Senator Ritchie to Create Jobs, Expand Business Opportunities for Veterans Passes Senate

PATTY RITCHIE March 24, 2014

| ISSUE: **MILITARY AFFAIRS, MILITARY, TROOPS, VETERANS**

**\*\*\*CLICK HERE TO WATCH SENATOR RITCHIE'S REMARKS ON THE LEGISLATION\*\*\***

State Senator Patty Ritchie has announced a measure she cosponsored to support the men and women of our Armed Forces by giving preference for state contracts to businesses owned by disabled veterans has passed the Senate.

The measure (S.6865) would create a six percent state contract set-aside for service-connected disabled-veteran owned small businesses, ensuring New York State's service-connected disabled veterans are better able to compete for millions of dollars in state contracts.

"I'm fortunate to be able to represent Fort Drum, as it gives me an opportunity on a regular basis to see everything our troops do not only for our region, but also for our country and this legislation is a tremendous way to say 'thanks' for their service" said Senator Ritchie.

"This new measure means new opportunities for so many of those I represent, namely the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in putting their lives on the line to protect our freedom. Through this legislation, we can give them the support they need—and deserve—to succeed in their post-military life."

Known as the "Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act," the measure is modeled after a highly successful federal initiative.

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, New York State is home to nearly 900,000 veterans, 600,000 of whom have served during periods of conflict. According to Governor Andrew Cuomo, there are roughly 106,000 service-connected disabled veterans in New York State.

Cosponsorship of this measure represents Senator Ritchie's most recent effort to support current members and veterans of our armed services. Just last week, Senator Ritchie honored our troops and their contributions to our region, state and nation, with "10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day," a special event held at the State Capitol for the third consecutive year.

In addition, earlier this year, a measure Senator Ritchie supported to offer a new tax credit to businesses that hire veterans when they return home from military service went into effect.