



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Robert G. Ortt

Senate Passes Measures to Improve Lives of Veterans

[Robert G. Ortt](#)

May 25, 2016

ISSUE:

- [Veterans](#)



ALBANY – As we prepare to honor Memorial Day, New York State Senator Rob Ortt (R,C,I – North Tonawanda) and the Senate Majority passed seven measures yesterday dedicated to improving the lives of veterans. The bills pay tribute to their service to the state and country.

Senate Committee Member on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Senator Ortt said, “My Senate colleagues and I are committed to supporting our veterans in every way that we can. Our veterans fought to defend our values, beliefs and freedoms, and it’s important to show that we are forever thankful to them by helping to make their lives more meaningful and successful. The legislation we just passed does exactly that.”

Senator Ortt’s bill (S3408) allows any veteran who has served this nation to be awarded a high school degree based on their knowledge and experience gained while in service. Current law, under Operation Recognition, allows World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans to receive their high school diploma. This legislation would expand this program to cover all veterans.

Other legislation passed Tuesday that would benefit veterans includes:

- [S6577A](#) sponsored by Senator Terrence Murphy (R,C,I – Yorktown) allows New York State income tax filers to contribute to the Veterans’ Home Assistance Fund;
- [S2245C](#) sponsored by Senator David Carlucci (D – Rockland/Westchester) gives school districts the option to offer real property tax exemptions to eligible veterans;

- [S1200A](#) sponsored by Senator Kathleen Marchione (R,C – Halfmoon) provides an increase in the rates of annuities payable to veterans and surviving spouses of veterans from \$1,000 to \$1,500;
- [S2263](#) sponsored by Senator Joseph Griffo (R,C,I – Rome) allows those with military service and honorable discharge to attend classes at the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) on a tuition-free audit basis; and
- [S870](#) sponsored by Senator Michael Ranzenhofer (R,C,I – Amherst) permits each county, city, town, or village to adopt a local law to authorize veterans who have not been discharged or released from a current, subsequent military service to receive an additional veteran real property owner tax exemption.

The Senate today also gave final passage to [S3137C](#), sponsored by Senator Tom Croci (R,C,I – Sayville), which requires the State Division of Veteran Affairs to maintain a fact sheet on their website containing contact information for all Veterans Integrated Service Networks in New York and for the U.S. Veterans Health Administration to help veterans better navigate the health care system.

All bills have been sent to the Assembly, except [S3137C](#), which will be sent to the Governor.

related legislation

[2015-S3408](#)

-
- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly

- In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

[Relates to awarding high school diplomas to veterans; repealer](#)

February 09, 2015

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [Robert G. Ortt](#)

Do you support this bill?