



NEW YORK STATE SENATE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

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Senate Majority To Pass Veterans Legislation in Honor of Veterans Hall of Fame Day

(Albany, NY) In honor of Veterans Hall of Fame Day, the Senate Democratic Majority today will pass legislation designed to promote the wellbeing and success of our veteran community. These bills establish the career assistance program at SUNY and CUNY colleges, and provide well-deserved tax exemptions for veterans who served in conflict zones, veterans with a service-related disability, and in situations where two qualified veterans are living in the same household. It will also require the publication of the number of veterans or surviving spouses of veterans on certain housing waiting lists.

The Veterans Hall of Fame Day allows New Yorkers to nominate veterans throughout the state who made tremendous sacrifices for our country. Since this day's inception, the Senate has inducted over 600 veterans, with this year's 61 being the highest participation ever. In its commitment to veteran support, the Senate Majority also secured \$10.7 million for human services and veterans community services organizations, \$250,000 for the Veterans Mental Health Training Initiative, and extended the hire-a-vet tax credit for three years in this year's State Budget. These efforts come in the wake of New York's annual West Point Day, where lawmakers commemorated the West Point Cadets on their achievements while giving thanks to all those who defended this nation. As the world is reminded of how fragile freedom can be, the New York State Senate Majority will continue to fight for the dignity of our veterans and advance legislation that will better protect those who have served.

“Thanks to the sacrifices millions have made for our nation, New York is left a secure and prosperous haven for people worldwide. In honor of the veterans who protected this way of life, we must continue to support their smooth and dignified transition to the civilian side, **Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins** said. “I am proud of today’s package that strengthens our veteran programming and grants much-deserved tax relief to this community. I applaud the

Chair of the Veterans Committee, Senator John Brooks, and the bill sponsors for advancing this important legislation and offer my deepest gratitude to those who have served our country.”

Bill sponsor and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs, Senator John Brooks, said, “We owe everything to our veterans and active duty military personnel. Those who serve in the armed forces are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect the liberties of their family, friends, and neighbors. They are the local heroes of our communities and we should strive to give back to them in every way we can. The transition from military to civilian life, especially when it comes to career planning, will often be an overwhelming process, and difficulties involved in translating military experience and skill sets for building an effective civilian resume can present many challenges. That is why I am proud to sponsor legislation which will help ease that transitional burden through well-deserved tax exemptions and establishing the Veteran Career Assistance Program. I am thankful to be in a position to give something back to those who give up so much for us on a daily basis.”

The legislation being passed by the Senate Majority includes:

- **Veteran Career Assistance Program:** This bill, [S1288A](#), sponsored by Senator John Brooks, will establish the veteran career assistance program within the SUNY and CUNY systems to provide veterans with assistance in resume writing and employment placement services.
- **Combat Veteran Tax Exemption:** This bill, [S1378A](#), sponsored by Senator John Brooks, will create a real property tax exemption for property owned by certain persons performing active duty in a combat zone.
- **Service Disability Tax Exemption:** This bill, [S2918A](#), sponsored by Senator Joseph Addabbo, will establish a real property tax exemption for veterans with a 100 percent service connected disability.
- **Veteran Cohabitation Exemption:** This bill, [S3402](#), sponsored by Senator Jamaal Bailey, will provide additional tax exemptions for two qualified veterans living in the same household.
- **Bill to Disclose Veterans on Housing Lists:** This bill, [S8500](#), sponsored by Senator Jamaal Bailey, would require the publication of the number of veterans or surviving spouses of veterans on certain housing waiting lists.

Bill sponsor Senator Joseph Addabbo said, “We have a responsibility to ensure any Veteran who becomes disabled while serving receives benefits that will help to reduce stress and improve their overall quality of life. This 100% tax exemption provides much-needed financial relief for Veterans and their families, many of whom are friends and neighbors from within our communities, who sacrificed their future while defending ours.”

Bill sponsor Senator Jamaal Bailey said, “For those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, thank you isn't enough. We must ensure our veterans and their families receive the vital resources, opportunity, and stability they need to thrive. S3402 will expand the property tax relief program and increase the available tax exemption for veterans living in the same household. The property tax exemption has helped reduce the financial burden of homeownership for countless families across the state, and this expansion will ensure our veterans can meaningfully benefit from this recognition of their service and sacrifice. S8500 will require the publication of the number of veterans or surviving spouses of veterans on certain housing waiting lists and support veterans in making informed decisions about where to apply for housing. This critical legislation honors our commitment to affordable housing and homeownership for veterans who have given so much in defense of our country and our freedoms.”

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