



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

New York State Assembly

Carl E. Heastie

Speaker

Committee on

Veterans' Affairs

Michael G. DenDekker

Chair



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Governmental Employees
Labor



MICHAEL G. DENDEKKER
Assemblymember 34th District

CHAIR
Veterans' Affairs Committee

December 15, 2018

Honorable Carl Heastie
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 2018 Annual Report of the New York State Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Several significant pieces of legislation became law this year, including legislation to provide for an annual increase in the rate of compensation for Gold Star Parents, and Chapter 322 of the Laws of 2018, which, per the recommendations of a report issued by the New York State Council on Returning Veterans and their Families, requires all subdivisions of the State to ask clients whether or not they, or a family member, are a veteran. The information received will help better identify veterans within their programs to ensure that the most appropriate services are being offered.

The Committee also advanced legislation to establish the New York State Silver Rose Veterans Service Certificate to recognize and spread awareness for veterans who were exposed to dioxin or phenoxy herbicides (Agent Orange) during military service.

While a number of our legislative goals were achieved this past session, much work remains to be done. In 2019, the Committee will focus on helping veterans who have recently been discharged to readjust to civilian life. The Committee also will continue to examine issues related to older veterans, women veterans and employment issues related to 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 State, and to you, Mr. Speaker, for your unwavering support for veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael G. DenDekker".

Michael DenDekker
Member of Assembly

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

Honorable Michael DenDekker
Chair

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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 unselfishly served their nation in the United States armed forces, including 58,855 New York State women. The Committee seeks to safeguard programs and promote legislation to benefit veterans and their families. In addition, the Committee maintains an ongoing dialogue with the veteran community and addresses issues affecting the lives of New York State veterans.

Veterans 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 March 30 dedication of a Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) chair in the New York State Capitol. The chair is on permanent exhibit located on the State Street side of the Capitol on the first floor. As per tradition, the chair will remain perpetually empty in order to honor those brave men and women who have not yet returned home or who have suffered unimaginable atrocities, ensuring that they are always kept in New Yorkers' and visitors' thoughts

This past legislative session, the Committee held five Committee meetings at which it considered 27 bills. Eight passed both houses of the Legislature; six were signed into law by the Governor and two were vetoed by the Governor.

While the Committee has jurisdiction over legislation that affects veterans' benefits and programs that help veterans and their families, the Committee does not work alone. Some veterans initiatives are referred to other standing committees, such as the committees on Governmental Operations, Transportation, Real Property Taxation, Health, Governmental Employees, Environmental Conservation, Election Law, Small Business, Mental Health, Labor, and Tourism, Parks, Arts, and Sports Development. As a result, the Committee's chair, members, and staff work closely with other committees to ensure that this unique population's needs are met.

II. 2018 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

A. Agent Orange

Agent Orange is a dioxin, a type of chemical contaminant that was contained in an herbicide (plant killer) used for defoliation in the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1971, in demilitarized zones in Korea in 1968-69, and at Fort Drum, New York, in 1959. Agent Orange was sprayed to clear vegetation, denying opposition forces the use of their camouflage or cover for ambush. This herbicide was 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.

Health implications for veterans have arisen over the years as a result of Agent Orange use. Hodgkin's disease, prostate cancer, and adult-onset diabetes mellitus (Type II) have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be associated with Agent Orange. Of the nearly 440,000 Vietnam-era veterans in New York State, approximately 131,000 engaged in active duty in Southeast Asia, suggesting that the number of veterans in New York State who were exposed to the herbicide may be high. A law passed in 1981 allowed veterans to initiate action to recover damages for personal injury caused by exposure to 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.

Agent Orange Extender (A.9585 Hunter; Chapter 82 of the Laws of 2018)

This law extends, from June 16, 2018, to June 16, 2020, provisions of law that revive time-barred causes of action for an injury or death caused by contact with or exposure to phenoxy herbicides for those persons serving as members of the armed forces in Indo-China from February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975.

B. Employment of Veterans

According to a population survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2015, an estimated 912,499 veterans resided in New York State, of which 5.8% were estimated to be unemployed. Many transitioning service members and veterans are not aware of relevant career opportunities available to them or their own potential capabilities.

Veterans Employment Task Force (A.4827-A DenDekker; Veto Memo 280)

This legislation would establish a Veterans Employment Task Force to hold public hearings twice a year, in different regions of the State, in order to examine and receive information on the employment status of veterans. On June 30, 2020, and every two years after, the Task Force would be required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature that includes, but is not limited to, an analysis of the current resources and programs being used to assist veterans in finding employment and a list of recommendations on how to maximize and create new opportunities for veterans seeking to maintain or obtain employment.

C. Gold Star Parents

According to the U.S. Army, the term “Gold Star family” is a modern reference that stems from the Service Flag. Such flags were first flown by families during World War I. Initially, the Service Flag contained a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during any period of war or hostilities. If a loved one died, the blue star on the Service Flag would be replaced by a gold star, showing the price the family had paid in the cause of the country’s freedom. In 1936, the United States began observing Gold Star Mother’s Day on the last Sunday of September. Later on, the Gold Star Wives was formed before the end of World War II. The Gold Star Lapel Button was then established in August 1947.

Gold Star Parent Annuity (A.2799-A McDonald; Chapter 356 of the Laws of 2018)

The Gold Star Parent Annuity is a payment for parents whose son or daughter died in a combat zone while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Under current law Gold Star Parents are paid \$500 annually with no provisions for an annual increase and total payments are capped at \$1,000 per veteran. This law eliminates the \$1,000 per veteran cap. Commencing in 2019, the amount of the annuity will be \$500 plus the amount adjusted equal to any annual percentage increase in the benefits set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Annuity information will be published on an annual basis on the State Division of Veterans’ Affairs’ website.

D. Disabled Veterans

Disabled veterans and their families are entitled to a number of benefits as residents of New York State. From programs such as the Veterans with Disabilities Employment Program, to the Military Service Recognition Scholarships for dependents of veterans or park passes for qualifying veterans, the State continues to work to ensure that disabled veterans are receiving the necessary services and benefits needed to take care of themselves and their families. The New York State Division of Veterans’ Affairs (veterans.ny.gov) is a public resource that disabled veterans can use to receive benefit assistance. In this year’s legislative session, the State Legislature undertook a number of legislative actions to further assist disabled veterans.

1. *Deer Management Permits (A.4538-A Ortiz; Passed both Houses) Chapter 463 of the Laws of 2018*

When issuing deer permits, New York State may give preference to disabled veterans having 40% or greater disability rating. Veterans seeking such permits must submit proof of this disability every year. This legislation would allow disabled veterans to provide proof of a service-related disability once when attempting to obtain a deer management permit.

2. *Interagency Council (A.5931-A; Ramos) Veto Memo No. 330*

A number of veterans return home to New York on an annual basis with service-related disabilities. This legislation would establish the New York State Interagency Coordinating Council for Service-Disabled Veterans to help identify the services that service-disabled veterans require through the implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated statewide program. The Council would help to address a wide range of issues from educational services, to health/rehabilitation services, to employment services, to housing, to transportation, and other quality of life matters. The Council would be required to meet on a quarterly basis, consult with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and report to the Governor and Legislature with policy recommendations for improving the overall quality of life for disabled veterans.

E. Veterans Status Requests

1. *Information on Special Veterans Populations (A.1206; Cusick; Chapter 322 of the Laws of 2018)*

Per Executive Order 412, “Establishing the New York State Council on Returning Veterans and their Families,” a report was issued that encouraged all public agencies at the State and local government level to better identify and track veterans within their programs and ensure that the right services are being offered to such veterans. This law will require all subdivisions of the State to ask customers/clients as to whether or not he/she, or a family member, is a veteran. Such inquiry and information obtained will be kept confidential and will be solely used for the sake of informing veterans, or his/her family member, of additional assistance and benefits through the State Division of Veterans’ Affairs.

2. *Maximizing Potential Benefits for Veterans (A.9981-A; Wallace; Chapter 467 of the Laws of 2018)*

Assisted-living facilities have become another option of residency for older veterans. This legislation would add operators of assisted-living residences to the State’s list of those required, in writing, to advise their residents, who identify as veterans, about available federal and state benefits.

F. Special Recognition

New York State Silver Rose Veterans Service Certificate (A.9586; DenDekker; Chapter 332 of the Laws of 2018)

New York State has a history of recognizing the proud and courageous actions of veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice to serve and protect the country. A number of veterans have returned home from service with emotional, psychological and physical trauma over the course of America’s history. This law will establish the New York State Silver Rose Veterans Service Certificate for veterans exposed to dioxin or phenoxy herbicides – such as Agent Orange in the – Vietnam War – during military service

.III. BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

A. Division of Veterans' Affairs

The Division of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) assists, counsels, and advocates for veterans, military personnel, and their families.

1. Veterans' Counseling Services Program

The Veterans' Counseling Services Program provides counseling and services through a statewide network of State veteran 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 veterans through outreach to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, senior centers, State and local veterans' nursing homes, and public assistance offices. State veteran counselors help ensure that active duty military personnel and their families receive the supplemental benefits to which they are entitled. State veteran counselors receive professional training in veterans' benefits counseling and are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018-19 budget included an allocation of \$11,374,000 for services and expenses related to the Veterans' Counseling Services Program.

2. 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 available education, retraining, medical, and other rehabilitative services and facilities. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$1,177,000 for the County and City Veterans' Service Agencies.

3. Monroe County Veterans Outreach Center

The Monroe County Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester, New York, is the nation's oldest community-based outreach center, serving veterans of all eras. The Outreach Center provides counseling services for successful reintegration of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts into the community, short-term psychological counseling for veterans and their immediate families, residential programs for homeless veterans, and an alternative to incarceration programs through the Rochester veterans' court. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$250,000 for the services and expenses related to the Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. The Legislature added an additional \$250,000 for services and expenses of such Center.

4. Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressionally chartered veterans' service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. Since the time of its original founding the mission of VVA has expanded to help all generations of veterans. The Council provides assistance in navigating the various benefits available to veterans of all eras and conflicts and their family members. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$50,000 for the VVA New York State Council. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

5. Legal Services New York City (LSNYC) Veterans Justice Project (VJP)

The Veterans Justice Project (VJP) identifies systemic barriers that prevent housing stability, economic security and basic survival, and challenges them through coordinated advocacy. The project addresses the following issues: HUD-VA supportive housing issues; evictions; foreclosures; unemployment insurance denials; debt collection/wage garnishment; child support; wills and powers of attorney; divorce; custody; special education; and Social Security/SSI. Since the Project was launched in 2011, at least 2,000 veterans and their family members have been assisted. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$100,000 for the VJP. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

6. Warrior Salute

The Warrior Salute, in Webster, New York, was created to help service members and their families with personalized life and job transition support. Warrior Salute helps veterans to regain their lives and dreams by providing clinical and family support services, quality employment opportunities, and temporary housing. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$200,000 for the Warrior Salute. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

7. Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE)

Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE) has established a comprehensive program for New York State's LGBT elder veterans which provides legal counsel, benefits advocacy, and enhanced wrap-around services in order to improve veterans' income security and overall well-being. In addition, representation will enable LGBT veterans currently on public assistance, Medicaid, or other State subsidy programs, to apply for veterans' benefits including, but not limited to, income, medical, spousal, and survivor benefits. The SAGE program will provide assistance to LGBT veterans, including helping them to navigate the process of upgrading their discharge if it is necessary for them to access federal VA benefits. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 included an appropriation of \$100,000 to implement SAGE's comprehensive program for New York State's LGBT elder veterans. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

8. Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and Military Families Project

The Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley provides a full range of civil legal services that resolve the unique legal problems faced by veterans and their families. The goal of the Project is to provide free legal advice and direct representation to veterans in civil (non-criminal) legal matters. The Project covers more than 120,000 veterans living in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$200,000 for this program. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

9. New York State Defenders Association Veterans Defense Program

The Veterans Defense Program (VDP) helps the most vulnerable veterans by assisting defense attorneys in providing justice to veterans with mental health issues arising out of their military service, and facilitating treatment to begin healing the wounds of war. The New York State Defenders Association is providing training and expert legal assistance to attorneys in 120 county-based public defenders offices, legal aid agencies, and assigned counsel staff. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$720,000 for this Program, including \$220,000 for the program's expansion in Long Island. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

10. Helmets to Hardhats Program

Helmets to Hardhats is a charitable corporation that assists transitioning active duty veterans, as well as members of the Reserves or National Guard, to gain employment with the building trades. The Program has been actively placing military veterans in building-trades affiliated apprenticeship programs across the country since 2003 and since 2013 in the City of New York. The program has since been expanded to include Upstate New York. The Program, which is being expanded statewide, fills a void in conventional services available to veterans by streamlining the pathway for veterans seeking to enter the construction trade. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 included \$200,000 to facilitate further the Program's statewide expansion. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

11. Veterans Miracle Center

The Veterans Miracle Center, located in Albany, New York, provides veterans, active duty military personnel and their immediate family with free clothing, personal care items, household items, ambulatory equipment, and toys. It also has counseling specialists available to provide free personal development such as financial planning, employment and housing information. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 included \$25,000 for the Center. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

12. Indigent Burial Services

Chapter 579 of the Laws of 2015, and Chapter 29 of the Laws of 2016, were enacted to provide dignified burials to indigent veterans whereby congressional-chartered veterans' organizations are selected by the State and counties to provide these services. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$100,000 to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for the payment of burial services for indigent veterans.

13. Veteran-to-Veteran Support Services

The concept of Veteran Treatment Courts started in Buffalo, New York. Currently, there are 29 of these courts statewide to address the needs of veterans who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system due to addiction, PTSD, brain injuries and mental illness. These special courts help veterans by linking them with community service and support, as well as local, state and federal agencies specializing in veterans' affairs. One of the key components of these courts is veterans who serve as volunteer mentors to the defendants. These individuals provide support and motivation to the veterans who are currently in the court system and help them not only navigate the criminal justice system but also reintegrate into civilian society.

The State budget for SFY 2018-2019 includes an allocation of \$1,000,000 for the following purposes: to support veteran-to-veteran programs maintained by veterans service organizations; to connect veteran defendants to treatment and support services directed by the criminal justice system; to support such treatment and support services; to provide services to support veterans to avoid involvement with the criminal justice system; to support programs providing counseling and advocacy activities for veterans; and to provide assistance in securing linkages at the national, state and local level. Funds will be made available pursuant to Request for Proposals for congressional chartered veterans organizations and requests from the Office of Court Administration (OCA) for the various veterans treatment courts. The \$1 million will be split evenly to service the veteran-to-veteran programs maintained by veterans' service organizations and the veteran mentor support system directed by the criminal justice services.

14. Access to Justice Initiative

The unmet demand for legal services for veterans and service members remains significant. The Justice for Heroes is a competitive grant initiative among the State's law school clinics to provide free legal assistance to veterans and their family members. Areas include foreclosure prevention and other consumer protection matters, family law assistance, discharge upgrades, and complex appeals regarding VA benefits. The State Budget for SFY 2018-19 allocated \$250,000 for this Initiative.

15. Veterans of Foreign Wars, NYS Chapter Field Service Operation

In order to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a person must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and received an honorable or general discharge and served in war, campaign or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. A veteran service officer of the VFW helps veterans navigate the various benefits available on the federal, state and local level. The State Budget for SFY 2018-19 included an allocation of \$125,000 for the services and expenses of the VFW Chapter Field Service Operation. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

16. West Islip American Legion

Located in West Islip, New York on Long Island, the American Legion Post 1738 is part of the American Legion organization, which was chartered and incorporated by the U.S. Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. The State Budget for SFY 2018-19 included an allocation of \$35,000 for the services and expenses of the American Legion Post 1738. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

17. North Country Veterans' Association

Located in Plattsburgh, New York, the nonprofit veteran-run North Country Veterans' Association works to assist veterans and their families in obtaining assistance, food, and services. The State Budget for SFY 2018-19 included an allocation of \$100,000 for the services and expenses of the Association. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

18. Research and Recognition Project

Thousands of military veterans return home from military duty with potential Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The symptoms of PTSD can present challenging implications for veterans and their loved ones. Located in Corning, New York, the Research and Recognition Project (R&RP) was founded in 2006 to carry out studies that validate therapeutic techniques that support the widespread use of innovative and cost-effective clinical care for PTSD and other psychiatric disorders. The State Budget for SFY 2018-19 included an allocation of \$50,000 for the services and expenses of the Project. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

19. Veterans' Education Program

The Veterans' Education Program is operated by the Division of Veterans' Affairs. The program is located in Albany and New York City and investigates and approves post-secondary educational and vocational institutions for the use of the Division's education benefits and approves on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 included an allocation of \$2,025,000 for this Program.

20. Administration Program

The Administration Program is primarily composed of two components, Supplemental Burial Benefits and Gold Star Parents Annuity Benefits. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$1,479,000 which includes funding for administrative personnel and operational expenses.

20a. New York State Supplemental Burial Benefits

New York State offers a supplemental burial benefits program to eligible families of military personnel killed in combat, or wounded in combat but dead from their wounds outside of the combat zone. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$400,000 for these Benefits.

20b. Gold Star Parents

Gold Star Parents refer to parents who have lost children in the armed services during a time of war. This appropriation supports the payment of a \$500 annuity to a Gold Star Parent. Up to two parents may claim this annual benefit. The State Budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$599,000 for such payments.

B. Division of Military and Naval Affairs

1. New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center

The New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center are located in the Saratoga Armory in Saratoga Springs, New York. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$1,000,000 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; the Veterans Research Center; and the preservation and restoration of historic artifacts. In addition, the Budget includes an allocation of \$189,000 for operating expenses associated with the Museum and Research Center.

C. Office of Mental Health

1. Peer-To-Peer Veterans Counseling Program

The PFC Joseph Dwyer PTSD Peer-To-Peer Veterans Counseling Program, which provides “peer-to-peer” counseling between veterans who personally understand the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, was first funded in the 2012 budget. It has been operating in four test counties: Suffolk, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Jefferson. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$3,735,000 to fund the four test counties, as well as nineteen additional counties: Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Columbia, Dutchess, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, Onondaga, Orleans, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Washington, Westchester and Wyoming. Also included in the funding is the University at Albany School of Social Welfare.

D. Office of Children and Families

1. American Legion Boys State Program

The American Legion's Boy State Program allows qualified male high school juniors to participate in a practical government course designed to develop a working knowledge of government. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$150,000 for this Program. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

E. Department of Agriculture and Markets

1. Cornell Small Farms Program (State Ops)

The Cornell Small Farms Program, funded previously in the State budget as part of a first in the nation pilot program, provides resources and training to veterans seeking to become farmers. The State budget for SFY 2018-19 includes an allocation of \$115,000 to help establish up to five veteran-owned farms. This was a legislative addition to the proposed Executive budget.

ARTICLE VII LANGUAGE BILLS

A.9509-C Budget

Chapter 59 of the Laws of 2018

Part Q

Extends the Hire a Vet Tax Credit for an additional two years, through tax year 2020, as the current Hire a Vet Tax Credit is only available until January 1, 2019. This Part extends the credit for two years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, and before January 1, 2021, for employment commenced before January 1, 2020.

A.9506-B Budget

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2018

Part Y

The New York Access to Home for Heroes Program provides funds to not-for-profit organizations and municipalities to make the homes of low- and moderate-income veterans with disabilities more accessible, allowing them to remain in or return to their own homes. For the purposes of this Program, a "veteran" is defined to mean: a resident of New York State who has served in the (A) United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps., Air Force or Coast Guard or (B) has served on active duty or ordered to active duty as defined in 10 USC 101 (d)(1) as a member of the National Guard or other reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or (C) has served on active duty for the State, as a member of State organized militia and has been released from such service documented by an honorable or general discharge. A "disabled veteran" is defined as a veteran with, including but not limited to, a permanent physical or medical impairment resulting from an anatomical or physiological condition which limits a major life activity.

IV. BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

A. Veterans' Affairs Committee

1. Information on Homeless Veterans (A.1646-A Rozic; Passed Assembly)

This legislation aims to address the issue of homeless veterans in the State by requiring the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Department of Labor, and Office of Children and Family Services to conduct a study to quantify the number of homeless veterans in the State. The study would analyze: New York veterans who are currently homeless, or have been homeless within five years of being released from active duty; data on the number of children of homeless veterans and their placement; cases of military sexual trauma experienced by homeless veterans during active duty or military training; and, the unemployment rate for veterans in the State.

2. Assistance for Sexual Trauma in the Military (A.1827 Fahy; Passed Assembly)

Veterans may experience challenging circumstances, including sexual trauma, during and after they've served in the Armed Forces. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is defined as a psychological trauma, which in the judgement of a VA mental health professional, resulted from a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment that occurred while the veteran was serving on active duty or active for training.

This legislation would maximize the resources provided to female veterans suffering from MST by requiring the Commissioner of Mental Health to establish policies that provide useful information to female veterans including information about veterans' affairs centers and organizations where they can seek treatment, counseling, and other MST resources. In addition, the information would be posted on the Office of Mental Health's website with links to the websites for the VA and the State Division of Veterans' Affairs.

3. Information on Special Veterans Populations (A.2739 Lavine; Passed Assembly)

The Veterans Health Information Program provides a list of resources for veterans, their families, and health care providers seeking information on service-connected illnesses. This legislation would expand the Program's depth of practice to include conditions such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), brain-related injuries, and spina bifida. Also included in this legislation is a requirement to include the military background and circumstances of the veteran.

**4. Severely Injured Military Personnel Tax Exemption
(A.8729-A Skouffis; Passed Assembly)**

The purpose of this bill is to establish, at local option, a real property tax exemption for severely injured members of the Armed Forces of the United States who continue their military service and have made accessibility improvements to their existing homes.

**5. Listing of County and City Veterans' Service Agencies
(A.11024 Stern; Passed Assembly)**

Veterans' services exist not only in State government but on the local level as well. To better facilitate accessibility to local veterans' service agencies, this legislation would require the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to post on its website a listing of the local veterans' service agencies with the name, location, hours of operation and contact information for each county and city veterans' service agency in the State.

**B. Governor's Program Bills
Veterans' Affairs Committee**

1. Expanded Eligibility for the Gold Star Parent Annuity (A.7570 Wallace; Passed Assembly)

This legislation would amend the Executive Law to expand the eligibility for the Gold Star Parent Annuity Program. The bill would remove a limitation under current law that caps the maximum annuity total at \$1,000 annually.

2. Preventing Pension Poaching Scams (A.7799 Mosley; Passed Assembly)

This legislation would prohibit any person helping veterans from charging a fee for providing assistance in seeking veterans' benefits, except when allowed by rules and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

**C. Health Committee
Disposition of Human Remains (A.2611 Gottfried; Passed Assembly)**

This legislation provides for clarification of the designation as a "human remains agent." It clarifies that the written instrument designating an agent does not have to be the form appearing in section 4201 of the Health Law and also removes the requirement for a second witness. If enacted, a "DD93" form used currently in the United States military would satisfy the requirement of State law.

D. Governmental Operations Committee

Additional Leave for Public Officers (A.10650-A Paulin; Passed Assembly)

State employees with military combat experience are currently entitled to additional leave, without loss of pay, to obtain health-related services. This legislation would allow municipalities to offer the same additional leave to their employees with military combat experience.

V. BILLS REPORTED BY OTHER COMMITTEES THAT BECAME LAW

A. Agriculture Committee - Therapy Dogs' Standards Working Group

(A.8926 Titone; Chapter 37 of the Laws of 2018)

This law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to create a working group to examine the need for therapy dog designation standards. The working group includes representatives from the Departments of Agriculture and Markets, Health, the Office of Mental Health, the Division of Human Rights, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Aging, the Division of Veterans' Affairs and relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the dog training industry, the disabled community, animal protection organizations, the business community, local governments, and the medical and mental health community and professionals. The working group is to report its findings to the Governor by October 1, 2019.

B. Governmental Employees Committee - Waiver of Application Fees for Veterans

(A.8927 Hunter; Chapter 35 of the Laws of 2018)

This law provides a technical amendment to Chapter 404 of the Laws of 2017 by defining "veteran" and "armed forces" for the purposes of the civil service examination application fee waiver available to veterans.

C. Governmental Operations Committee - Official Hymn of Remembrance

(A.8704-A Magnarelli; Chapter 466 of the Laws of 2018)

This law designates "Here Rests in Honored Glory," composed by Dr. Donald Miller, Professor of Music at Onondaga County Community College, as the official State hymn of remembrance. This song of praise would honor all American veterans. It is based on the inscription on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

**D. Expanded Acceptance of Forms of Proof of Identity
(A.9886 Bichotte; Chapter 409 of the Laws of 2018)**

This law authorizes the Division of Minority Women’s Business Development to accept the DD Form 214 issued by the U.S. Department of Defense as proof of an applicant’s race or ethnicity.

**E. Racing and Wagering Committee
Electronic Bell Jar Games
(A.2303-C Pretlow; Veto Memo No. 351)**

This law authorizes the use of electronic bell jar vending machines by authorized charitable organizations conducted at nonprofit organizations’ facilities, including veterans’ halls or posts.

**F. Small Business Committee - Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers
(A.2805 Thiele; Chapter 398 of the Laws of 2018)**

This law establishes Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers to provide assistance primarily to minority groups’ members, including women, individuals with a disability and dislocated workers and veterans. This law also requires the Department of Economic Development to establish criteria and designation for such Centers.

**G. Transportation Committee - The Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge (A.8766-
A Galef; Chapter 319 of the Laws of 2018)**

This law designates “The Bear Mountain Bridge” as “The Purple Heart Veterans Memorial Bridge.” This bridge is a toll suspension bridge carrying US 6/US 292 across the Hudson River between Rockland/Orange Counties and Westchester/Putnam Counties. The span enables connections to the Palisades Interstate Parkway and US 9W on the west bank near Bear Mountain Inn to NY 9D on the east.

**H. Ways and Means Committee - Military Family Relief Fund
(A.3842-A Ortiz; Chapter 374 of the Laws of 2018)**

This law establishes the Military Family Relief Fund and provides taxpayers a method by which they can contribute to the Fund. The Fund would provide emergency financial assistance to qualified military members and their families who are suffering economically as a result of line of duty related injury or illness. Several states have a similar program for their service members and families.

VI. HONORING VETERANS THROUGH LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

A. Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, S.422 / H.R. 299. (Resolution No. 796, Pheffer Amato)

This resolution urges the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, S.422/H.R. 299. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 would restore the legal presumption of Agent Orange exposure for those veterans who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of Vietnam. This federal legislation would correct a Vietnam Affairs (VA) policy decision implemented in 2002 that unilaterally stripped these veterans of the presumption of exposure granted by the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

B. Urging the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the Military Veterans Caregiver Service Improvement Act of 2017, H.R. 1472. (Resolution No. 1129, Espinal)

This resolution urges the New York State Congressional Delegation to pass the Military Veterans Caregiver Service Improvement Act of 2017, H.R. 1472. The Military Veterans Caregivers Service Improvement Act of 2017 would expand the eligibility for the family caregiver program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to include members of the Armed Forces or veterans who became seriously injured or ill on active duty prior to September 11, 2001. This federal legislation would also expand the services to caregivers of veterans to include child care services, financial planning, and legal services.

C. Honoring the life and legacy of Floyd Carter, Sr. (Resolution No. 940, Heastie)

A pioneer who served and paved the way for others to follow, Floyd Carter, Sr. joined the Army Air Corps in 1944 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant Bombardier Navigator in 1945. In 1946, Floyd Carter, Sr. received his pilot wings and transferred the following year to the Air Force Reserves, where he served for 30 years until retiring in 1976 as a Lieutenant Colonel and Commander of the 732nd Military Airlift Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Floyd Carter, Sr. also served as a bombardier navigator for the famous African-American Tuskegee Airmen unit at Tuskegee University, a unit that experienced enemy fire in World War II. Floyd Carter, Sr. courageously spoke out against discrimination that he and his fellow airmen faced during their military training. After his retirement from the Air Force, Floyd Carter, Sr. joined the New York City Police Department in 1953 as a police officer, rising to the rank of detective before retiring in 1980. In 2007, Floyd Carter, Sr. was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal by President George W. Bush. Floyd Carter, Sr. remained active in his community into his 90s where he served as grand marshal for the annual Veterans' Day Parade in the Bronx in November 2015. Distinguished citizen, father, and husband, this resolution honors the life of a leader who served his country valiantly and spoke up against injustice.

D. Mourning the death of Gerald T. Donnellan, United States Army veteran, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community (Resolution No. 1070, Zebrowski)

A lifelong resident of Rockland County, Gerald T. Donnellan proudly served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Army Rangers during the Vietnam War. Due to a severe injury from an enemy grenade during the Vietnam War, Donnellan had to undergo extensive surgeries and physical therapy which resulted in his return home to be with his family. In 1986, after learning that more soldiers were committing suicide than had died in the Vietnam War, Donnellan became a counselor in Rockland County's Veterans Agency Office. In 1992, Donnellan was appointed Commissioner of the County's Veterans Agency, a position he held until January 2018. During his career, Donnellan created the local Chapter 333 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, opened the first Rockland County Veterans Homeless Shelter, created the Camp Shanks Museum and opened the first VA clinic in the United States. This resolution honors the life of Vietnam veteran Gerald T. Donnellan.

VII. HONORING SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN THROUGH LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

A. Paying tribute and remembering Master Sergeant Christopher J. Raguso of the New York National Guard who lost his life on Thursday, March 15, 2018, in Iraq (Resolution No. 1393, Raia)

Master Sergeant Christopher J. Raguso proudly served his country as a member of the New York National Guard. A resident of Commack, NY, Master Sergeant Raguso was an HH-60G special missions aviation flight engineer who joined the 106th Rescue Wing in 2001 and was stationed at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach, Long Island. Master Sergeant Raguso was assigned to the Wing's 101st Rescue Squadron and was previously deployed to Iraq as fire protection specialist with the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron, twice to Afghanistan with the 101st, once to the Horn of Africa, and to Texas and the Caribbean for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Prior to his service, Master Sergeant Raguso served in the Commack Volunteer Fire Department and the New York City Fire Department's Ladder Company 113 and Engine Company 302 where he was promoted to Lieutenant and honored six times by the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) for his bravery and courageous actions in saving others' lives. This resolution pays tribute to Master Sergeant Christopher J. Raguso, who was killed in Iraq.

VIII. MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM VETERAN RELATED EVENTS

A. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 29, 2018, as Vietnam Veterans' Day in the State of New York (Resolution No. 972, DenDekker)

The Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with the United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 29, 2018, as Vietnam Veterans' Day in the State of New York.

B. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 9, 2018, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York (Resolution No. 945, Walsh)

Residents of New York State must never forget the courage of the men and women who are currently serving in America's Armed Forces. Yellow ribbons are symbols that citizens can display to show support for and solidarity with the soldiers, sailors and airmen serving around the world to protect our Nation. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 9, 2018, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York.

C. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 9, 2018, as West Point Day in New York State (Resolution No. 1159, Skouffis)

By an act of Congress, on March 16, 1802, the United States Military Academy was established within the borders of New York State. Since its establishment, the U.S. Military Academy and its graduates have become an integral part of the proud history of New York State and the nation. The leadership and sacrifices of the members of the Long Grey Line have helped protect this country from outside threats to our freedom. While the Academy's alumni have excelled on the battlefield for country, they have also excelled in many other fields, strengthening the country for the future due to the Academy's presence in the forefront of the State's outstanding institutions of higher learning. Located on the banks of the Hudson River at present-day West Point, NY, the Academy's scenic campus is visited by thousands each year from across the State, continent, and world. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 9, 2018, as West Point Day in the State of New York.

D. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 14, 2018, as Blue Star Families' Day in the State of New York (Resolution No. 1168, McDonald)

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. dates back to World War II and is a support organization for mothers of children serving or who have served in the United States military. During World War II, there were approximately 30,000 Blue Star Mothers, and several thousand during the Korean, Vietnam War, Iraq and Afghanistan. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 14, 2018, as Blue Star Families' Day in the State of New York.

E. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2018 as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month in the State of New York (Resolution No. 1380, Simotas)

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms can be acute or long-term and include hyper-vigilance, panic attacks, intrusive memories, flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia, avoidance, dissociation, hopelessness, and intense feelings of guilt and shame. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2018 as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month in the State of New York.

F. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2018, as Post-Traumatic Injury Awareness Month, and June 27, 2018, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Day in the State of New York (Resolution No. 1374, DenDekker)

The diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who endured severe traumatic combat stress. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2018 as Post -Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and June 27, 2018, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Day in the State of New York.

G. Memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 4-10, 2018, as Veterans' Awareness Week in the State of New York (Resolution No. 1361, Jean-Pierre)

Members of the Armed Services from New York have paid the ultimate sacrifice and provided the utmost service all for the cause of protecting the country's freedom, in times of warfare and in times of peace preservation. This resolution memorializes Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 4-10, 2018, the week prior to national Veteran's Day, November 11, as Veterans' Awareness Week in the State of New York.

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES BY THE VETERANS' COMMITTEE

A. Subcommittee on Women Veterans

The Subcommittee on Women Veterans sponsored the 25th annual Women Veterans Recognition Day on June 13, 2018, hosting a luncheon to recognize and celebrate the brave women who have so valiantly served our nation. The Keynote speaker was Commander Rena M. Nessler, the former Commander of The American Legion Department of New York. Commander Nessler was the first woman to serve as State commander in the Organization's 99-year history. She served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1972, and earned the rank of yeoman third class. After 1972, she worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs until her retirement in October 2011. The former Commander is an enrolled member of the White Earth Ojibwe tribe. Other speakers included Morgan Woodson, Veterans Benefits Advisor for the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs; Patti Gomez-Michalkow, Mrs. New York; and Christine Tarnowski, Senior Director of Operations Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). At the beginning of the Session day, the veterans were introduced and received a standing ovation in the New York State Assembly Chamber, including a special ovation for former Commander Rena M. Nessler.

For the first time, there were vendors who presented information about their not-for-profit programs, specifically related to women veterans. They included: Institute For Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), located at Syracuse University, which is the first interdisciplinary national institute in higher education focused on the social, economic, education and policy issues impacting veterans and their families, and America's VetDogs which was created to provide veterans and active service members with enhanced mobility and renewed independence. America's VetDogs specializes in placing highly skilled service and guide dogs with veterans and first responders who have physical injuries.

The Assembly adopted the following three resolutions concerning women veterans;

- Assembly Resolution No. 1346, at the request of Assemblymember Hunter, memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2018, as Women Veterans Recognition Day in the State of New York.
- Assembly Resolution No. 1264, by Assemblymember Hunter, urging the New York Congressional Delegation to pass the peer support counseling program for women veterans, H.R.4635/S.2402. The federal legislation would help ensure a sufficient number of peer counselors for women veterans.
- Assembly Resolution No. 1265, by Assemblymember Hunter, urging the New York Congressional Delegation to support the Deborah Sampson Act, S.681. This federal legislation would change the Department of Veterans Affairs' motto that excludes women; expand peer-to-peer assistance for women veterans; establish legal service partnerships and provide funding for low-income women veterans services; increase VA's capacity to provide newborn care; eliminate access barriers to VA health care faced by women veterans; and require gender-specific data tracking and reporting.

B. Public Hearing and Events

On December 12, 2018, the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Subcommittee on Women Veterans held a public hearing on veterans' employment. The hearing focused on veterans employment programs funded by the State of New York. The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness), New York City Department of Veterans' Services, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York, Disabled American Veterans Department of New York, and several organizations that have programs dedicated to helping veterans gain employment opportunities gave testimony before the Committee.

C. Assembly Chamber Veterans Related Events

10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day in the State of New York

On February 6, 2018, soldiers and officers stationed at Fort Drum, located in Watertown, New York, were in Albany for the seventh annual 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day in the State Capitol. The Day highlights the special relationships between the State and the United States Army. For instance, Fort Drum is the largest single-site employer in Northern New York with 15,110 soldiers and 3,722 civilian workers (including contractors) with payrolls totaling \$731,549,848 and \$196,147,375, respectively according to the Fort Drum economic report for Fiscal Year 2017. The Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization was present, and several pieces of army equipment were deployed and demonstrated by enlisted soldiers stationed at Fort Drum.

Capital Region Military Day at the Capitol

On March 22, 2018, members of the United Military Affairs Council (UMAC) gave a military briefing to members of the Committee and other interested parties. UMAC is a program of the Capital Region Chamber in partnership with Saratoga County Chamber and the Chamber of the Southern Saratoga County, to highlight the military presence in the Capital Region and ensure its long-term success. Capital Region military bases include the Nuclear Power Training Unit Ballston Spa; Naval Support Activity Saratoga Springs; Watervliet Arsenal; and the Stratton Air National Guard Base/109th Airlift Wing. These bases have an economic impact of more than \$1 billion for the State.

Dedication of the POW/MIA Chair in the New York State Capitol

Members of the Committee attended the dedication of a Prisoners of War and Missing In Action (POW/MIA) chair, from the Ogdensburg National Guard Armory, located on the first floor of the Capitol building in Albany, New York. Legislation was signed into law in 2017 to have the chair permanently placed in the Capitol. The chair, surrounded by the United States flag, the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action flag, and the State flag, will be perpetually empty. Mr. Grant T. Coates, Co-chair of the POW-MIA Committee Veterans Initiative Program, Vietnam Veterans of America, said, "Placing an empty chair, reserved for those that never returned from war, will be a solemn daily reminder to the observer."

West Point Day

This year marked the 66th anniversary of West Point Day in the New York State Assembly, during which the Assembly honors the U.S. Military Academy's cadets and the role they play in the defense of this nation. Brigadier General Cindy Jess, the 14th Dean of the West Point Academic Board, spoke in the Assembly Chamber.

Veterans' Cemeteries Update

The President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration included an allocation of \$315.8 million for the VA's system of 139 national cemeteries, including funding for the activation of nine new cemeteries which will open in 2019 and 2020. Among the new cemeteries to be funded are the Western New York site and the "Urban Initiative" Jamaica, Queens site. The members of the Committee wrote letters to the New York Congressional Delegation to highly recommend that these two sites be included as part of the final federal Budget.

Western New York Veterans' Cemetery

The first national veterans' cemetery in the Buffalo and Rochester area will be called the Western New York National Cemetery. The 269-acre cemetery will be located in Penbroke, New York, (Genesee County) and is slated to open prior to the end of 2019. The cemetery, which will be a traditional gravesite cemetery, will serve more than 96,000 veterans and family members in the Western New York region.

Urban Initiative

An outdoor columbarium for the cremated remains of New York City-area veterans and their spouses is slated to be located in Jamaica, Queens, at the Veterans Affairs St. Albans Community Living Center. The first step in this project, set for completion in 2019, is demolishing two buildings at the site, which is estimated to cost \$1 - \$5 million. The columbarium walls would have an initial capacity of 4,000 burial niches. The master plan calls for 50,000 niches over a 100-year period, according to the National Cemetery Administration.

X. OUTLOOK FOR 2019

The Committee is looking forward to a productive year in 2019 and will continue to work with the Division of Veterans' Affairs, the 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 the State.

The issues that the Committee intends to pursue include the following:

- outreach to older veterans;
- improving veterans' mental health and outreach programs to help veterans in need of specific care related to mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and substance abuse;
- reviewing veterans' employment opportunities;
- increasing awareness of mental health treatment programs for those veterans who suffer from military sexual trauma;
- increasing outreach to women veterans to better identify and respond to their needs; and
- outreach to recently discharged veterans.

The Committee will continue to strive to address the needs of New York's more than one million veterans and their families.

APPENDIX A
2018 SUMMARY SHEET

Summary of Action on All Bills Referred to the Committee on
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Final Action	Assembly <u>Bills</u>	Senate <u>Bills</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Bills Reported With or Without Amendment</u>			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee (Favorable)	7	0	7
To Ways & Means	6	0	6
To Codes	0	0	0
To Rules	3	0	3
To Judiciary	0	0	0
Total	16	0	16
<u>Bills Having Committee Reference Changed</u>			
To Ways and Means	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
<u>Bills Defeated in Committee</u>	0	0	0
<u>Bills Held for Consideration With a Roll-Call Vote</u>	11	0	11
<u>Bills Never Reported or Held in Committee</u>	0	0	0
<u>Bills Having Enacting Clause Stricken</u>	2	0	2
<u>Motion to Discharge Lost</u>	0	0	0
TOTAL BILLS IN COMMITTEE	59	19	78
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD		5	

APPENDIX B

COMMITTEE CHAPTERS/VETOES

Assembly Bill	Sponsor	Description	Final Action
A.1206	Cusick	Requires all State entities that provide assistance and treatment services involving health, mental health, family services, criminal justice, or employment to inquire as to whether their customer/client or a family member, has served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Such person is to be advised that the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs can provide necessary services.	Chapter 322
A.2799-A	McDonald	Increases the Gold Star Parent annuity and eliminates the \$1,000 per individual cap.	Chapter 356
A.4538-A	Ortiz	Requires service-connected disabled veterans to show proof of such disability only at the initial issuance of a deer management permit.	Chapter 463
A.4827-A	DenDekker	This legislation would have established a task force on veterans' employment to generate recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on new ways of assisting veterans find and maintain employment.	Veto Memo 280
A.5931-A	Ramos	Establishes the NYS Interagency Coordinating Council for service-disabled veterans to promote the implementation of a comprehensive statewide program of coordinated services for service-disabled veterans.	Veto Memo 330
A.9585	Hunter	Extends the timeframe for certain actions relating to Agent Orange exposure.	Chapter 82
A.9586	DenDekker	Establishes the NYS Silver Rose Veterans Service Certificate for veterans exposed to Agent Orange during military service.	Chapter 332
A.9981-A	Wallace	Requires veterans and spouses of veterans in nursing homes and residential health care facilities, including assisted living facilities, to be identified to help State counselors ensure such veterans are receiving their maximum benefits.	Chapter 467

APPENDIX C

COMMITTEE BILLS THAT PASSED THE ASSEMBLY ONLY

Assembly Bill	Sponsor	Description
A.1646-A	Rozic	Would require a study on the number of homeless veterans in NYS broken down by gender.
A.1827	Fahy	Would require information on where veterans can seek help for military sexual trauma.
A.2739	Lavine	Would require information regarding specific mental and physical health issues to be included on the New York State Department of Health's website through the Veterans' Health Care Information Program. The measure would also require the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to collect military background and circumstances of persons subject to their jurisdiction.
A.7570	Wallace	Would eliminate the \$1,000 cap on the annual annuity payable to an eligible Gold Star Parent.
A.7799	Mosley	Would prohibit any person from charging a fee for providing assistance in seeking veterans' benefits, also known as "pension poaching."
A.8729-A	Skoufis	Would allow, at local option, a municipality or school district to provide a real property tax exemption for real property alterations that facilitate access for severely injured Armed Forces members who have service-connected disabilities due to combat injuries, but continue to serve on active duty.
A.11024	Stern	Would require the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs to post on its website a listing of the local veterans' service agencies with the name, location, hours of operation and contact information for each county and city veterans' service agency in the State.