

## From the House

Dear Neighbors:

I want to take an opportunity to share some information with you about legislation that was adopted during the 2016 session that will help our military veterans as they return home and look for future employment. I hope this column is useful to any one you know who has served or is currently serving in our military. As always, please let me know if you have any questions (860-240-8500 at work or at home at 860-519-5685).

One of our main goals during this past session was to assist veterans in finding quality jobs. We passed a law that will help veterans find these jobs by creating a resource network through the Department of Labor for veterans with specialized skills. The skills that veterans acquire during service can be very useful to employers, and putting the talents of veterans to work benefits our economy as a whole.

Another law will facilitate veteran employment by giving a preference to veteran-owned small businesses that bid for state contracts. Veterans who start a small business may also be eligible for business tax relief for the first tax year after they're established.

The legislature also approved a resolution to our nation's leaders to recognize Blue Water Navy Veterans' exposure to Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. Currently, these veterans are being denied VA benefits for health issues related to Agent Orange exposure. We passed a joint resolution that urges the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, and members of Congress to provide these benefits.

Supporting veterans through common-sense legislation is the least we can do in repayment for their service. I will continue to prioritize the needs and issues of veterans in my work at the Capitol.