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Your guide to
Veterans Services from
Assemblyman Steve Stern

Important Information
for our Veterans
From your Assemblyman Steve Stern



“As a member of the Assembly Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, it is my privilege to work with and for the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation and for their families. I will always work hard to ensure that our veterans receive the recognition, support and services that they have earned.”

— Steve Stern

Questions? Concerns?
My office is here to help.

Assemblyman Steve Stern

95 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 100 | Melville, NY 11747
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Assemblyman Steve Stern is always working hard for our veterans:

Supporting Our Veterans and Their Families:

- Sponsored and passed critical legislation to ensure our veterans and their families have access to vital services they have earned and deserve.
- Co-sponsored and passed a legislative initiative to provide housing and support services for homeless women veterans.
- Co-sponsored and passed legislation to ensure that our brave men and women currently serving our great nation around the world have every opportunity to vote.
- Co-sponsored and passed legislation to extend Real Property Tax exemptions to seriously injured active military members to maintain their dignity and independence in our community.

Education Benefits:

State Veterans Tuition Awards: Eligible veterans who served in Vietnam, Afghanistan or the Persian Gulf, have earned an Expeditionary Medal and have received a discharge under honorable conditions may apply. Additional restrictions may apply. Veterans should contact 888-697-4372 or visit www.hesc.ny.gov for information.

Children of Veterans (Regents) Awards: Provides eligible children of deceased veterans, those missing in action or prisoners of war, or those service-connected disabled veterans with a disability rate of 40% or greater an annual, noncompetitive award of up to \$450, provided the parent is or was a New York State resident at time of death.

Career Advancement: The Labor Department provides job referrals, employment counseling, testing and other services. Please call the Suffolk County Department of Labor at 631-853-6600.

Review of Discharge: Military Boards of Review have authority to correct and upgrade most discharges based on facts submitted for consideration. Call 800-827-1000 and ask for DD Form 293 and DD Form 149.

The Military Enhanced Recognition Incentive and Tribute (MERIT) Scholarship was expanded this year to provide tuition aid and/or free SUNY tuition to family members of service members killed or severely or permanently disabled while performing official duties. We owe our military families not just words, but real action.

Civil Service Benefits:

Civil Service examination fees are waived for honorably discharged veterans. Credit preferences and retention rights are available for disabled veterans and nondisabled veterans for competitive positions. Some competitive positions are filled by appointment for qualified wartime veterans with disabilities. For an application and program information, call 518-233-3118 or 866-297-4356.

State and Local Benefits:

Eligible New Yorkers may have their status as a veteran designated on their New York State driver's license. Please submit proof of honorable or under honorable conditions discharge to the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain this designation.

New York State Division of Veterans' Services Smartphone App:

NYS Division of Veterans' Services has a free smartphone app which provides comprehensive information about access to veterans' services, including health care, housing, services for women veterans, veterans' burial benefits, employment, vocational services, legal assistance, volunteer opportunities and more. You can access the app at Google Play for Android devices and the App Store for iPhones.

Important Phone Numbers

NYS Division of Veterans' Services Helpline	888-838-7697 www.veterans.ny.gov DVSInfo@veterans.ny.gov
Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency	631-853-VETS
Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Support Group	631-853-8354
Northport VA Medical Center	631-261-4400
Veterans Crisis Line	1-800-273-8255