

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF OUR 2014 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM  
STATUS AS OF 01/19/14**

**The American Legion Family of over 200 thousand members urge the Governor & Legislators to move forward on the Bills listed below to provide our Veterans with the assistance they have earned through their service to God and Country**

**In 2014 we are enlarging our scope of support to include Legislation that we feel reflects the immediate need of our Veteran population. That will include JOBS, SUICIDES & HOMELESSNESS. We have a Bill that addresses jobs sponsored by Senator Ball & Assemblyman Ortiz; and endorsed by Governor Cuomo on 01/08/14.**

**We are requesting our Legislators to sponsor Bills that address Suicides & Homelessness**

**JOBS**

**PROVIDES A PREFERENCE IN STATE CONTRACTS FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES**

**A5872 – Ortiz - 01/08/14 – Amend & Recommit to Governmental Operations, Print # 5872a - S2803-A BALL – 01/114/14 – Amend & Recommit to Veterans Homeland Security & Military Affairs – Print # 2803B**

**This Bill would establish a program to provide a state contract preference for service disabled owned small businesses**

**SUICIDES – A Bill is being solicited**

**HOMELESSNESS – A Bill is being solicited**

**RESOLUTIONS – Passed at American Legion Convention July 2013**

**REPEAL OF NEW YORK STATE SECURE AMMUNITION AND FIREARMS ACT (SAFE)**

**Resolution # 24 at NYS Convention July 18-20, 2013 in Niagara Falls**

**Looking for Sponsors – The SAFE ACT abridges the rights of Veterans' Organizations to sponsor color guard and firing parties, to conduct military funerals, and patriotic ceremonies. We request that all prosecuting authorities in the state of New York duly recognize the Constitutional Rights of veterans to keep and bear arms of the type with which they trained, carry them in parades, & fire them at funerals and other ceremonies**

**OFFICIALLY RENAME THE STATEN ISLAND EXPRESSWAY TO THE POW/MIA**

**MEMORIAL HIGHWAY - Resolution # 8 at NYS Convention July 18-20, 2013 in Niagara Falls**

**A3745- Cusick – 01/08/14 – Referred to Transportation – S4971 LANZA – 01/08/14 – Referred to Investigations & Government Operations**

**AN ACT to amend the state law, the highway law and the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to renaming the Staten Island Expressway the "POW-MIA Memorial Highway"**

## **BILLS**

### **MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT**

**A4936 Cusick – 01/08/14 – Referred to Governmental Employees – S4380 Maziarz – 01/08/14 - Referred to Civil Service & Pensions**

Currently members of the retirement system are able to buy back their time from five years of service to two years per Chapter 548 of the NYS Laws of 2000. However, Chapter 548 did not include the same criteria for veterans who wish to buy back their military time as they currently must have FIVE years of service to be eligible for credit under Chapter 548.

### **FREE HUNTING, FISHING & TRAPPING LICENSES**

#### **FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS**

**A6011 Giglio – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation - S3900 Young – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation**

*Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses to residents of New York State who are active duty members of the US Armed Forces regardless of where said person is stationed.*

### **KEEP COUNTY/CITY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY**

We did not have Sponsors during the 2012 Legislative Session – None in 2013

Recently, efforts have been made by Counties/Cities to consolidate several agencies into omnibus advocate agencies without fully studying the specific needs of veterans. Such consolidations would limit the resources and opportunities available to veterans.

Veterans deserve to have a free-standing, independent agency to assist them through government bureaucracy as required by para.1 of Section 357 of the Executive Law.

### **NYS-SLA 30 DAY BILLING POLICY**

**A2894 Ortiz – 01/08/14 Died in Senate, Returned to Assembly, Ordered to Third Reading cal. 167 – S4491 Griffo – 01/08/13 – Referred to Investigations & Government Operations**

Return to the State Liquor Authority's "30 day billing policy" for non-profit organizations.

### **RELATES TO USE OF PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM VETERANS OR FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS RECEIVING SERVICES FROM THE STATE**

**A-3348 Sweeney – 01/08/14 – Died in Senate, Returned to Assembly & Ordered to Third Reading Cal 167 – S6277 Parker – 01/09/14 – Referred to Veterans Homeland Security & Military Affairs**

The purpose of this legislation is to inform Veterans and their families of the many services and opportunities provided by the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs (NYSDVA).

**REQUIRES ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONTAIN INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES**

**A6214 Ramos – 01/13/14 – Committed to Veterans’ Affairs - S359 Kennedy – 01/08/14 – Referred to Veterans, Homeland Security & Military Affairs**

*The purpose of this bill is to require the NYSDVA to include an accounting of the number of veteran-owned small businesses in the State of New York in its annual report to the Governor and members of the Legislature.*

**RELATES TO VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES**

**A4359 Thiele (MS) – 06/26/13 – Delivered to Secretary of State – S1562 Lavale – 06/26/13 – Delivered to Secretary of State**

A constitutional amendment that would allow any person who has received an appointment through civil service to be entitled to additional credit if said individual was classified as a veteran with disabilities after the first appointment or promotion

**WAIVES CERTAIN FISHING AND HUNTING FEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN ACTIVE SERVICE STATIONED WITHIN THE STATE**

**A1294 Zebrowski – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation - S1102 Maziarz – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation**

This act establishes that members of the U.S. armed forces in active service who are stationed within New York State; active members of the state militia; may receive certain licenses, such as fishing, trapping, small and big game free of charge. For residents who are blind, fishing licenses may be obtained free of charge.

## **FINALIZED – 2013**

### **VETERANS' ORGANIZATION REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

*A2283 Lavine – 07/31/13 Signed CHAP. 283 - S936 Martins – 07/31/13 Signed CHAP.283*

Per NYS Laws, veterans' post buildings are exempt from real estate and school taxes. Presently, most posts support their charitable, educational, and veterans' programs by renting space in their buildings. However, if the renter/tenant is not an exempt entity, the rental portion is taxable. This taxation has a devastating effect on the posts' maintenance and programs. To correct this situation, The American Legion Family urges the NYS Legislature to enact legislation exempting Veterans' Organizations from ALL real property and school taxes.

### **ELIMINATE "SCHOOL TAX ADD BACK"**

*A565 Cusick – 12/18/13 – Signed by the Governor - S1199 Carlucci – 12/18/13 Signed by the Governor*

Current State property tax laws allow partial tax exemption for Veterans, but not for school district property tax. This Bill would allow that exemption.

### **RELATES TO A PROGRAM FOR VETERAN SPEAKERS IN CLASSROOMS TO SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY**

*A1601A Colton – 07/31/13 – Signed CHAP.283 - S5030 Carlucci – 07/31/13 – Signed CHAP.283*

The purpose of the bill is to create a veteran speaker education program with NYSDVA, specifically, the bill would required NYSDVA, in consultation with the Director of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans resource center, to develop an informational pamphlet to be distributed to school districts which would provide a general overview of the program and a list of available veteran speakers who are willing to discuss their military experiences.

### **VETERANS' CEMETERY BILL**

*Provides for the Establishment & Operation of State Veterans Cemeteries by the Division of Veterans' Affairs.*

*Ball - 04/01/13 - Senator Ball has added an item into the budget authorizing the creation of a NYS Veterans Cemetery through the Federal VA Program. A HUGE SUCCESS!*

### **UPDATES STATUTE DIRECTING AGENCIES TO SEEK INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF VETERANS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE REFERRAL OF VETERANS TO AGENCIES FOR BENEFITS**

**\*A37A Cusick – No Senate Sponsor in 2012 – It has been determined that there is no need for this Legislation as it is covered by Chapter 62 of the Laws of 2011 (Part C subpart B Section 95)**

The purpose of this bill was to update the statute directing agencies to seek information on the status of Veterans who receive assistance to promote the referral of Veterans to the appropriate agencies for benefits.

