



Honoring Those Who Served New York State Veterans Legislation

Our nation is home to nearly 21 million Veterans of the Armed Forces, four million of whom have served since September 11, 2001.¹ Nearly 700,000 of those Veterans reside in New York State. Many of those Veterans have come home and entered the civilian workforce in a variety of occupations and industries.

Honoring these courageous individuals should happen not only while they are actively serving, but also when they return home. Within our union, the “Veterans of Steel” program honors military service and identifies ways to assist Veterans and their families in Steelworker-represented workplaces.

As a state and a nation, we have shown through policymaking that we respect and honor the patriotic service of our Veterans and their families by ensuring that there are programs to assist them in education and training, job placement, healthcare, and more — but there is still more work to be done.

The federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) helps Veterans to secure jobs, but it does not offer details on benefits and services — from healthcare to financial compensation to educational opportunities to employment preferences — for which Veterans and their families are eligible.

New York State should lead the nation by requiring a standardized workplace posting that includes basic information about Veterans’ benefits and a way for Veterans to learn more about programs such as:

- Free advocacy & assistance for Veterans & their families, such as:
 - NYS Division of Veterans’ Services
 - VA Crisis Line
 - Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program
- Federal disability compensation & other VA benefits
- Educational opportunities for Veterans
- Veteran-focused assistance with substance abuse and other forms of addiction
- Tax exemptions and credits available to Veterans
- NYS Veteran Driver’s License information
- Lifetime Liberty Pass for New York State Parks
- Employment & re-employment rights for Veterans
- Veteran-focused *pro bono* legal services
- Info for constituency groups like African-American Veterans Groups and LGBTQ Veterans Groups



The myriad programs for which Veterans are eligible helps ease the transition back into civilian life and ensures that families and communities are supported after giving selflessly for our country. We urge you to support efforts to improve transparency and outreach in workplaces regarding these life-changing programs.

¹ https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2017/article/Veterans.htm?view_full