

### **Veterans Legislation Enacted 11 November 2009**

The Massachusetts Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law new legislation to benefit our veteran community.

The following is a summary of the new legislation:

- A.** Creation of the Medal of Liberty to be presented to the next of kin of servicemen and women killed in action or who died as a result of wounds from combat.
- B.** Allowing for easier access to absentee ballots for the service members.
- C.** Replacing the word male with "veteran" when allowing preference for disabled veteran's status within State employment.
- D.** DAV's shall be given preference when State contracts are awarded. 3% of State contracts shall be set aside for DAV's.
- E.** A study shall be conducted to determine if there is a need to expand the availability of State Homes for Veterans.
- F.** Private nursing home care facilities may apply for status as of "State Home" to provide care for elderly veterans.
- G.** Allowing for credit towards an apprenticeship for job performance and training while in the military.
- H.** Expand the Welcome Home Bill - allowing the bonus to be expanded from a one time payment to: One time 100% and 50% of the amount for each subsequent deployment.
- I.** Establishing a Hall of Fame for Veterans.
- J.** Provide an MRI for all service people for the Commonwealth before and after a deployment.
- K.** Provide for the Welcome Home Bonus for those who served in Desert Storm or Desert Shield.

Respectfully submitted,  
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