



TWU Local 100

Veterans

Committee Newsletter



November, 2013

Since we started our lobbying efforts to get bill S-4714 / A-6974 passed, a lot of New York State Senators and Assembly persons have signed on board!

In the NYS Senate, there were initially three NYS Senators who introduced Bill S-4714; they were Senator Bill Larkin (the introducer), and co-sponsors Senators DeFrancisco and Ritchie. Now there are a total of 12 NYS Senators who have also stepped up to the plate to co-sponsor this bill, bringing the total of Senators that have signed on to 15!

In the NYS Assembly the results are even better! Bill A-6974 was initially introduced by NYS Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and nine NYS Assembly Legislators who were co-sponsors. Since then, 27 additional members of the NYS Assembly have

jumped onboard to co-sponsor the bill, bringing the total who are signed on to bill A-6974 to 37 — a staggering number of New York State Assemblymen and women. The number of co-signers supporting these bills is greater than any other bills being considered before the New York State Legislature! Well done, NYS Legislature!

However, it still has to be voted on in both houses and it still needs to be approved by the Governor. For this reason we need every TWU member to please contact your representatives in the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate and request for THEM to sign on to these important bills that will knock three years off of the time needed to qualify for your pension! Together we will get these bills passed into law!

Next Albany Lobby Day Now in Preparation

In the last issue of our Newsletter, we reported on our first “Veterans Lobby Day” held back in May. We did not schedule another bus trip up to Albany since then because the Legislature is not in session until January 2014. However, keep your eyes and ears open, and make sure to save an AVA, as we are planning to have another “Veterans Lobby Day” bus trip up to Albany in January or February!

Make sure that you sign up today so that you will receive all of the important Veterans information that will be coming up in the very near future! See Back Page for signup.

ROLL CALL

New Bill Sponsors Since Our Last Newsletter — Keep up the good work, Vets!

NYS Senators who have signed onto Bill S-4714

Introduced by: NYS Senator Bill LARKIN

Co-Sponsored by: State Senators ADAMS, AVELLA, DEFRANCISCO, GALLIVAN, GIPSON, GOLDEN, HOYLMAN, LAVALLE, MARTINS, PARKER, RITCHIE, SEWARD, TKACZYK, ZELDIN

NYS Assembly Members who have signed onto Bill A-6974

Introduced by: NYS Assemblywoman Amy PAULIN

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblymembers SCHIMEL, COLTON, SCHMIMMINGER, GUNTHER, MAISEL, RAMOS, WEPRIN, HEVESI, ROBERTS, BENEDETTO, GANTT, STECK, RUSSELL, ROSENTHAL, JAFFEE, TEDISCO, MALLIOTAKIS, TENNEY, ARROYO, BARCLAY, CURRAN, CUSICK, DIPIETRO, GARBARINO, GOTTFRIED, HOOPER, KELLNER, LALOR, MAGEE, MILLER, MILLMAN, RAIA, RIVERA, WEISENBERG, WRIGHT

On the front of the NYC Transit Transportation building, located at 370 Jay St., there is a plaque that is dedicated to the TA workers that served our country in World War 2 and made the ultimate sacrifice during this conflict. Since last year, when the building was given away to NYU, there has been no mention of what will become of this plaque. We, in the TWU Veterans Committee, have recently started efforts to preserve this plaque to ensure that the memory of these brave TA service men and women will never be forgotten.



Veteran Distinction on NYS Drivers Licenses Now Available

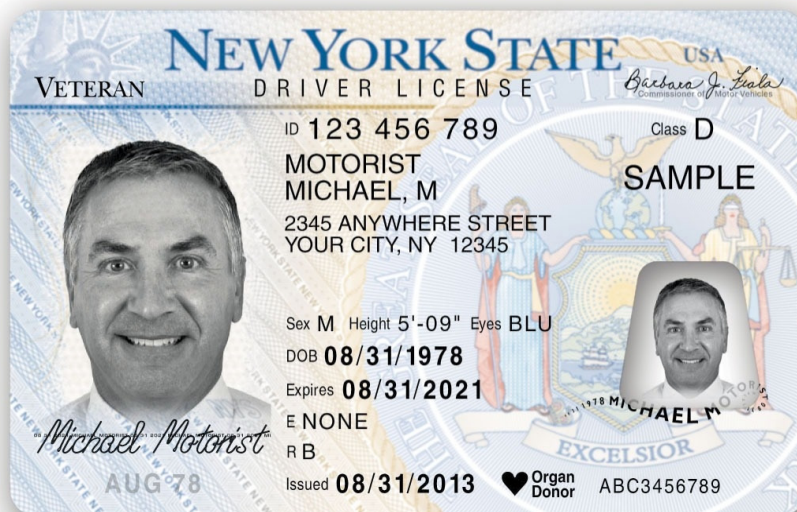
Posted by NYS Senator William J. Larkin Jr. on Monday, October 7th, 2013 (from his website)

Residents who are military veterans can now apply for a special designation on their New York State driver's license when they apply for a license renewal.

If you are a qualified U.S. military veteran, who was honorably discharged, and you have a NYS driver's license, learner permit or non-driver photo ID card, you can have the word "Veteran" printed on the upper left hand of your photo document.

This measure, which I proudly supported in the New York State Senate, eliminates the need to carry separate documentation to prove that you are a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

Since many local businesses across the state currently provide discounts to veterans, having a driver's license with a veteran's designation allows for more convenience and ease in presenting proof of service. A driver's license is often acceptable proof of identification; it only makes sense to allow our nation's heroes to use it to show they proudly answered our nation's call.



For more information, please visit: <http://www.dmv.ny.gov/armedforces.htm>

*As published
in the Chief on
June 17, 2013*

The Chief

Civil Service **LEADER**
THE CIVIL EMPLOYEES' WEEKLY

To the Editor:

I am writing today about an important issue that affects all veterans that are part of the NYCERS retirement system.

There is an oversight in state law that should be corrected. NYCERS currently places time constraints on military service credit-pension buy back. In 2000 the state legislature passed a law that allowed certain veterans to purchase the time that they spent in the military and receive credit for this time from the pension system. This is done at the expense of the member and is paid out of pocket. This was a tremendous gain but I, and many others, feel that it was flawed from its inception.

As it is currently written, it only pertains to veterans that served during an era of a recognized armed conflict. There are two distinct and contradictory ways of configuring these eras of eligibility:

World War II (12/7/1941-12/31/1946) Korea (6/25/1950-1/31/1955) and Vietnam (2/28/1961-5/7/1975) are all inclusive periods, meaning that as long as you served one day during these periods, you are eligible to purchase credit, regardless of duty station, theatre of operation or involvement in an actual armed conflict.

Later conflicts are configured

in a completely different manner. Lebanon (1982-1984), Grenada (1983), Panama (1989), The Gulf War (1990-1991), The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (2001-present) are all covered under the law. There are also time constraints placed on these conflicts. However, for these conflicts there is an additional requirement. You must have a service ribbon or campaign medal to prove that you were actually there, to be eligible.

And what of the other smaller conflicts that occurred during this time? Conflicts like: The USSR cold war (1947-1991); The Greek civil war (1944-1949); The Chinese civil war (1945-1950); The Berlin Airlift (1948-1949); The China cold war (1949-1972); The Lebanon crisis (1958); The Bay of Pigs (1961); Iran (1980); The El Salvador civil war (1980-1992); The Bombing of Libya (1986); The Persian Gulf escorts (1987-1988); Operation Provide Comfort (1991-1996); Somalia (1992-1993); Haiti (1994-1995); Columbia (1994-present); Bosnia-Herzegovina (1995-2004); NATO bombing of Yugoslavia (1999); Each of these conflicts had U.S. Military personnel committed to them. 788 U.S. servicemen paid the ultimate sacrifice and a further 1037 were wounded in service to their country during

these conflicts.

Well, in NY State, they are not recognized at all and people that participated in them are ineligible to

purchase their prior military active duty time towards their civil service pensions. They cannot claim five points veterans credit on any New York State civil service open competitive or promotional exam. They do not receive a real estate tax benefit reduction. They may be veterans according to Federal law but they are not according to New York State law.

Luckily there is a bill that is in the NY state legislature right now that would change that. For this reason I am asking that everyone either write a letter to their NY state congressman or contact their own unions veterans committee and let's organize to pass S4714 Larkin/ A6974 Paulin that would change the dates of public retirement system pension buy back to include ALL personnel of the American Military that served their country, regardless of date.

Sincerely,

Kevin Harrington
TWU Local-100
Veterans Committee Chairman
TWU Local-100 R.T.O.
Vice President

Our First TWU 100 Veterans Lobby Day Held on May 7th was a huge success!!



All TWU Local 100 Veterans are encouraged to join the TWU 100 veterans committee!

You'll receive important updates on Veterans legislation and be able to join us in future events! Fill out and Return this form today!

Return to: Veterans Committee, TWU Local 100, 195 Montague Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Name _____ Pass # _____

Division _____ Email _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____

Branch of Service _____ Years Served _____

