

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



A Tribute to Our Veterans

Dear Friends,

Veterans Day is a time of reflection and gratitude to those who served our country in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. Let 11/11/16 also be a day that we commit to an America worthy of their sacrifice. Let us reflect on what has been given and what has been sacrificed by this generation of American Servicemen and Women - and all those that have come before. As they have been willing to invest in our future, let us be willing to invest in theirs and let us never forget why it is appropriate for us to do so.

I am proud to say that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the national model for comprehensive services to our Veterans. Just this year, the Massachusetts legislature passed the HOME Act, which provides a range of additional support for members of the Armed services, Veterans, gold star families, and the Commonwealth's two Soldiers' Homes. One provision of the HOME Act affords Veterans - many of whom are required to work on Veterans Day - the opportunity to participate in important Veterans Day activities such as parade and ceremonies with paid time off. This flexibility will provide younger Veterans the ability to carry on the Veterans Day traditions of generations past. For more information about the HOME Act, please contact my office at 617-722-2130.

State Benefits Available to Veterans

Chapter 115, General Financial Assistance

- The Commonwealth provides a program of financial and medical assistance for indigent Veterans and their dependents. Qualifying Veterans and their dependents receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, housing supplies, and medical care based on the number of dependents and level of income. Eligible dependents of deceased Veterans are provided the same benefits as if the Veteran were still living. To apply visit www.mass.gov/veterans or contact the Maynard Veterans' Service Officer at 978-897-1361.

Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans

- Eligible Veterans, spouses, and parents can qualify for property tax exemptions. For more information contact the Department of Revenue at 617-626-2300 or www.mass.gov/dor, or contact the Maynard Veterans' Service Officer at 978-897-1361.

Veteran and Veteran Survivor Benefits

- The Commonwealth provides a bonus to Veterans who lived in Massachusetts immediately prior to entering the armed forces. When a Veteran passes away, their surviving spouse and children, mother or father, or brother or sister (in that order) are eligible for the bonus. For more information visit www.mass.gov/veterans, or contact the Maynard Veterans' Service Officer at 978-897-1361.

Burial Benefits

- Any Veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions and was a Massachusetts resident prior to or following military service is eligible for burial, free of cost, at one of the two State Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries in Agawam and Winchendon. Spouses of Veterans and qualified dependents are also eligible for burial at a nominal fee. For more information contact the Maynard Veterans' Service Officer at 978-897-1361.

For more information on state and federal benefits available to Veterans, contact Wayne Stanley, Maynard Veterans' Service Officer, at 978-897-1361 or wstanley@townofmaynard.net. The Veterans' Service Office is located in Maynard Town Hall and is available Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. or by appointment.

Honor Flight New England

Honor Flight New England is a non-profit organization created to honor America's Veterans. Through generous donations, Honor Flight New England transports our heroes to Washington, D.C., at no cost to the Veteran, to visit memorials that are dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Top priority is given to World War II Veterans and Veterans who may be terminally ill. For more information contact Honor Flight New England's Founder Joe Byron at 603-518-5368 or contact my office at 617-722-2130. You can download an application form at www.honorflightnewengland.org.

Veterans Day 2016

The Maynard Veterans Day Parade will be held on Friday, November 11th at 10:30 a.m. The parade will start and end at Mill & Main parking lot across from River Rock Café.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Maynard Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, November 10th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Maynard Public Library, 77 Nason Street.
- **Bolton Office Hours** will be held on Tuesday, November 15th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street.

Please bring any questions, ideas or concerns you may have. If you are unable to attend office hours and have an issue or concern, please call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment with me.

Kate Hogan

November 2016

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Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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