

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

The year of 2005 has been a year of challenges for the Veterans' Services Department. The department has seen increased activity of veterans in need of services. Energy, drug and medical costs have risen dramatically and in turn many veterans on fixed incomes have fallen on very difficult times.

This office has endeavored to take applications for veterans and their families and to find services for those veterans in need.

Veterans' Day 2005 paid special tribute to veterans, as the governor signed into law House Bill 4469, commonly referred to as "The Welcome Home Bill". The law expands benefits to veterans, such as: a \$1,000 bonus for those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and an increase of \$500 in annuity payments, education and fee waivers at all State and Community Colleges and an increase in insurance death benefits from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

During this report period your Veterans' Service Officer has increased efforts in the area of outreach by providing ongoing information to the media and is committed to serve local veterans and their dependents in whatever way possible.

Respectfully submitted:

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Director\VSO