

(House Bill-5639)

AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF GOLF CARTS ON LOCAL ROADS.

Representative Marilyn Giuliano

January 2009

Distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, Honorable 23rd District Representative Marilyn Giuliano! And, fellow **House Bill-5639** proponents!

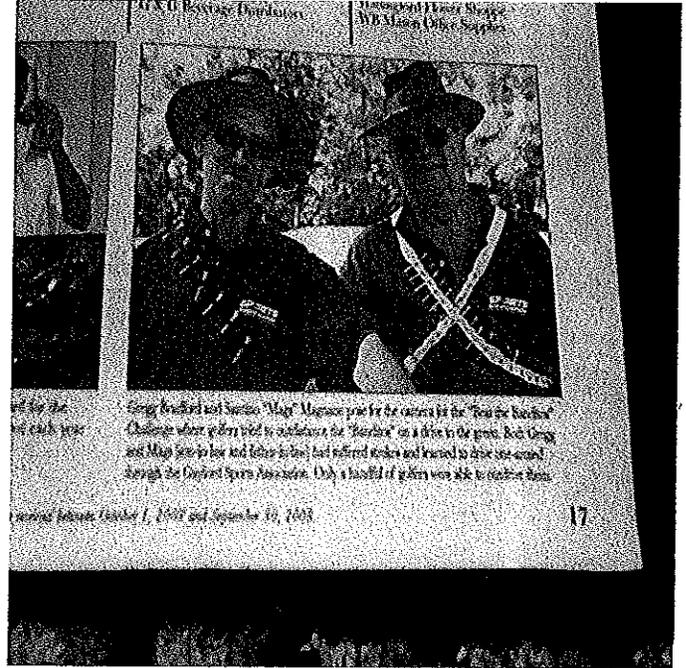
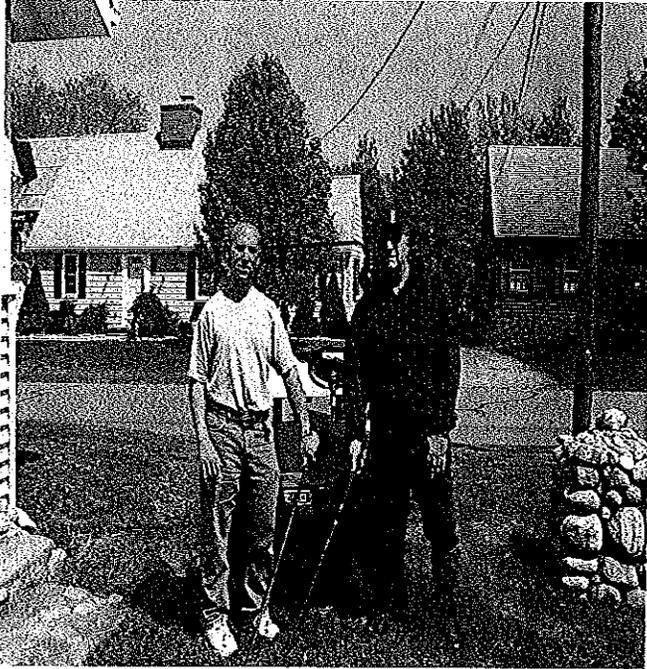
My name is Santino Magnano, I'm a retired 38-year mainframe systems programmer I live in Middletown, Ct. and I own a summer cottage in the Knollwood Beach area of Old Saybrook, Ct.

I am honored to be here today to testify in support of Marilyn's **House Bill-5639** I chose to support this proposal because in 2008 the town of Old Saybrook decided to officially ban the use of golf carts on its beach area roads. I **NEED** to use my golf cart in order to get to and play golf at the Fenwick golf course! I also need to use my cart to **SAFELY** get to the Knollwood Beach beach area and the Knollwood Beach Clubhouse and playground areas. My support for **House Bill-5639** is personal and comes from a disabled person's perspective! Back in 1988, I suffered a stroke that left me unable to walk, unable to talk, unable to move my left arm, hand, leg, and foot. Exercise is the key to my cardiovascular health, and golf is the best form of exercise I can get! Being with my grandchildren is the best medicine for my mental wellbeing, and nothing is more enjoyable than taking them to the clubhouse playground or watching them play in the water at the beach! To further bolster my need of using my golf cart in and around Old Saybrook's beach area and my support for **House Bill-5639**, I've obtained a couple of letters from two of my doctors; my Cardiologist Dr. Joseph Corning and my Neurologist Dr. Edward Tucker! (attached)

Below are a couple of pictures of me and my son-in-law, Gregg Bradford. Gregg and I met at the Gaylord Hospital back in 1988. We were both in a stroke rehabilitation program. Gregg suffered a stroke in 1987 at age 19. At that time, he was a student at UCONN. I suffered a stroke in 1988. I was 45 at the time and working for NU. We met at Gaylord Hospital's after-hours exercise program called "Flexercise". There we became good friends. And, we both became charter members of the Gaylord Hospital's golf club! A golf club for former hospital patients with physical disabilities! Today, we play golf with the club and at the Fenwick course. **Both of us need to use a golf cart in order to get out and play a round of golf!**

We both volunteer at Gaylord and for the American Heart Association! Below, the picture on the left shows Gregg and I posing at the cottage before heading out for nine at Fenwick. It was featured in an article I wrote for the American Heart Association's 'Stroke Connection Magazine' published in October 2007. The picture on the right shows Gregg and I posing for the cameras at the 2008 Gaylord Hospital 'Classic' Golf tournament. Gregg and I volunteered to participate in the 'Beat the One Arm Bandits Challenge' which was soon coined '**Beat-the-Banditos**'. That day, Gregg and I raise over **\$600** for Gaylord. The picture appeared in the hospital's 'Gift-Report (2007-2008)' publication!

The key to Gregg and I being able to play golf at Fenwick is our ability to use a golf cart! In the future, I hope Gregg will be able to continue playing golf at Fenwick and take my grandson Brendan to the beach and clubhouse!



In closing, I would like to mention, my electric golf cart serves me as much as an electric wheelchair as it does a golf cart! And, in addition to me and Gregg, I know many other people with disabilities will benefit from the passage of Marilyn's **House Bill-5639!**

Please consider a '**YES**' vote for **House Bill-5639!**

Grazzi, Ciao!

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ps: Please check out State of Connecticut Web-Site: (WWW.CONNECT-ABILITY.COM)

- Click on Career Center, select man named Gregg Bradford (yellow hard-hat).
- Click on Learn More (+) View his video.