

TEXT ONLY



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony

By

Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90th District  
Cheshire – Wallingford

on

H.B 5039 An Act Concerning the Processing of Veteran's Exemption  
February 2, 2009

Chairman Graziani, Chairman Maynard and honorable members of the Veterans Affairs committee, I appear before you today in strong support of An Act Concerning the Processing of Veteran's Exemption, HB 5039.

For the record, I am Mary Fritz, State Representative from the 90<sup>th</sup> district, covering parts of Wallingford and Cheshire.

As some of you may recall a bill similar to this was presented to the committee last year. Unfortunately, it was merged into another bill which did not make it to the floor of the House or Senate.

So here I am again asking again for your help to help my constituent Antoni Fekieta. Mr. Fekieta served in Vietnam, moved to Wallingford in 1987 and filed for his Veterans property tax audit. Finally, in 2006 he realized that he had not received this exemption through the years. Went to town hall and believe me when I say it was a back and forth of who was to blame – the town or the state. Interestingly, the town found the paperwork properly filed but not acted upon.

State law limits the look back to six years. So Mr. Fekieta was compensated for 6 years.

Mr. Fekeita is not looking for compensation for himself. His concern is for other veterans. Remember- key to this proposal is- if a mistake has been made. It has no additional costs to communities because again a mistake has to be made. Even the town treasurer of Wallingford supports this proposal.

I have attached Mr. Fekeita's letter to the Governor from October 2008. It is very clear as to what happened.

So please give this proposal a joint favorable vote and let's make sure our veterans get their tax exemptions which they so rightly deserve.

Thank You

October 28, 2008

Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Executive Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell,

I am writing to have a voice and ultimately make a change for Connecticut veterans. I served in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne during the Vietnam War from 1970-1972. I have happily resided in the great town of Wallingford since 1987. In the spring of 1987, I filed for the Wallingford property tax credit offered to veterans. A copy of my application along with my DD-214 has been on file with the town since 1987. However, the town never implemented the tax credit even though I submitted the necessary documentation. I was not aware of the town's error until 2006. When I questioned the town of Wallingford in 2006, they were able to find the documents that I had submitted for the credit in 1987. As a result of the town's error, I have been compensated for 6 years which is the maximum length of time that is allowed for retroactive compensation according to CT statute law.

I have tried to resolve what I consider to be an unfortunate circumstance for veterans. When I spoke with Mayor Dickinson, he informed me that this issue is a state matter. However, when I contacted Senator Fasano's office, I was told that this is not a state matter but a local matter.

I believe that for this type of town error there should be no statute of limitations for any person who has served this country. As this was not an error on my part, I feel that I should be reimbursed for the tax credit that I was entitled to receive from Wallingford since 1987. I am writing this letter with the hope that this unfortunate law is revised to better honor the sacrifice of veterans.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I very much appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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cc: Mayor William Dickinson  
Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro  
Senator Joseph Lieberman  
Senator Len Fasano  
State Representative Mary G. Fritz  
Town Councilman Robert F. Parisi