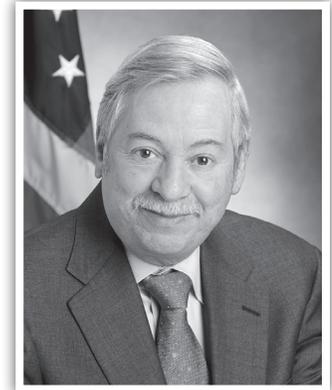


MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends,

The Assembly Committee on Governmental Employees has jurisdiction over proposals pertaining to civil service requirements and regulations such as the Taylor Law, ratifying State employee contracts, hearing procedures and civil service lists and to public pensions and the public pension system. A majority of the legislation that moves through this Committee pertains to pension systems.

While negotiations on the State budget and other legislative priorities were being negotiated, the Governmental Employees Committee passed a number of important legislative initiatives. In this newsletter, you will find the Committee's dedication to the hard working men and women of our State's municipal workforce from ground breaking health care initiatives that protect families across New York State to maintaining much needed services that we rely on every day.

I would like to thank all the Committee members and staff for their dedication and attention to the needs of our State's public employees. Additionally, I would like to thank the public employee organizations, their representatives and the many government officials whose input on legislation is invaluable.

If you have any questions or concerns with regard to issues or legislation before the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter J. Abbate Jr.".

*Peter Abbate, Jr.
Chair*

Assemblyman Peter Abbate's Offices

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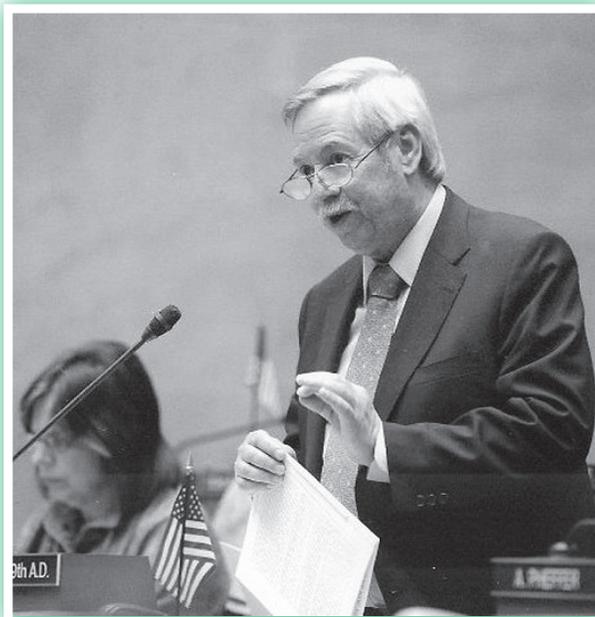
DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR OUR CITY UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

This year the Governmental Employees Committee fought to restore the $\frac{3}{4}$ Line of Duty disability benefits for our uniformed personnel in New York City. Our newest uniformed forces, including police and fire officers, currently receive only \$27 a day in disability pay when they are injured on the job. This figure is inappropriate and unacceptable considering their sacrifice. The Committee will continue the fight to restore these overdue benefits to the many public employees we rely on most. Below are the proposals:

*Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ Disability
Benefits for Police Officer and Fire Fighters – A.6046*

*Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ Disability Benefits for
Correction Officers – A.7108*

*Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ Disability Benefits for
Sanitation Workers – A.7185*



****UPDATE****

During the month of July the New York City Fire Fighters Union came to an agreement with the City to jointly seek legislation to restore the $\frac{3}{4}$ disability and all presumption benefits to all fire fighters at the contribution of 3% of salary.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

This legislative session the Assembly passed several initiatives that would provide much needed benefits

to our troops while they are away defending our freedom. Below are modest initiatives in recognition of their service.

*Pension Buyback for Military Personnel –
A.8174-A*

This bill would allow all veterans who have served in the military to purchase up to 3 years of retirement service credit. This bill would make equal the benefits currently afforded to active veterans under the Military Service Credit Law of 2000.

*Allows for make-up Civil Service exams for
Military Personnel – A.7824*

This bill expands current Military Law by allowing a make-up examination for military personnel who miss a Civil Service examination due to a call to active duty for training.



PROTECTION AND RETENTION OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

Over the course of this legislative session, several pieces of legislation were introduced that would protect the individuals that our community relies on most; our police, fire, sanitation and corrections officers. In recognition of the role these individuals play in our society and the risks they take every day when they suit up for work, the Assembly took action on several pieces of legislation to protect our first responders. The ability to retain our veteran forces so they may teach incoming recruits life lessons and practical advice, learned through on the job experience, is also of great importance. Below are pieces of legislation that acknowledge this. These bills have been passed by both houses of the legislature and are on their way to the Governor for final approval:

- **A.4644**

This legislation would provide police officers of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey who are assigned the duties of a detective for more than eighteen months be compensated as a detective from that time on. The police officers of the Port Authority should be granted the same rights as those enjoyed by all other officers throughout the State.

- **A.5290**

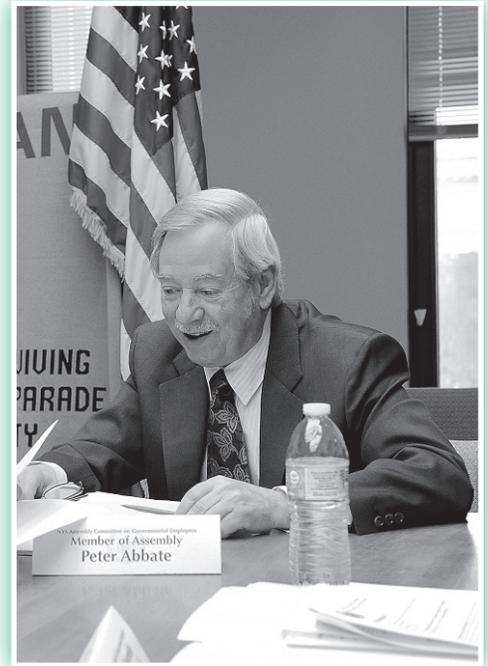
This bill would allow court and peace officers in the unified court system who are injured as a result of a physical assault that causes them to be physically or mentally incapacitated for performance of their duties while in service to be entitled to accidental disability retirement unless the contrary can be proven. While working within the full capacity of their job, a uniformed court officer or peace officer should be assured that they will be eligible for an accidental retirement when they are injured due to an accident completely out of their control.

- **A.5333**

This legislation would require local police agencies to base bump and retreat rights on date of appointment to position rather than date of appointment to Civil Service.

- **A.7648**

This legislation would allow a captain who served as captain for at least 15 years to receive the same rights in respect to the police pension fund as a captain who acted as deputy chief for an aggregate time of 2 years.



ANNUAL CANCER SCREENING FOR EMPLOYEES



In this day and age the odds of developing a cancerous disease is something people should be aware of and ensure they take the appropriate steps to have themselves screened. Recognizing this, the Assembly passed legislation that would allow municipal employees up to 4 hours of paid annual leave to undergo cancer screening. It is our hope this bill will give public servants across the State an opportunity to access preventative care and to detect cancerous diseases, in the early stages, before they progress (A.409A). This bill should also help stem the tide of rising health care costs that result from these diseases going undetected before they become more serious.

WORLD TRADE CENTER RESCUE AND RECOVERY LEGISLATION



In 2004, the legislature passed a law that would establish a presumptive disability retirement related to exposure to elements in connection with the World Trade Center tragedy of September 11, 2001 (A.11684 of 2004). This year the legislature revisited this issue and considered the following bills:

Extension of the Governor's WTC Taskforce – A.6962

This bill would extend the September 11th Worker Protection Task Force Act until June 10, 2020.

***Extension of the Filing of Notifications for WTC illnesses – A.7958
(Pending Legislative Approval)***

This bill re-opens notice of participation for certain workers who contracted illnesses suffered as a result of participating in rescue, recovery, and clean up directly related to attacks at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

*News from the
NYS Assembly Committee on*

Governmental Employees

Peter J. Abbate, Chair • Carl E. Heastie, Speaker

LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

It is always a mournful time when one of our uniformed personnel dies in the line of duty. During this time of grief, it is necessary that we honor these valiant heroes in a fashion that is fitting to the dedication and commitment they have provided to the entire community.

***Cost of Living Increase for Widows of Fallen Uniformed Personnel
– A.5057-A***

This legislation extends the escalation of a cost of living increase of approximately 3% for all line-of-duty widows or widowers for fiscal year 2015-16.

