

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats

James A. Amann
Speaker of the House



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House Majority Leader

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MILFORD DELEGATION TO SUPPORT VFW UPGRADES

Calling it one of their goals for the 2007 session, local legislators said today they will seek state funding to help make Milford's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 7788 handicapped accessible.

"This is the least we can do to repay a huge debt owed to local servicemen and women," said Speaker of the House Jim Amann (D-Milford). "Post 7788 is an active player in the veterans' community, sending care packages to troops overseas and deploying volunteers to VA Hospitals. They deserve this."

The VFW Post 7788, located on 422 Naugatuck Avenue, was constructed in the 1940's. Needed upgrades include making the building's four bathrooms handicapped accessible and installing an elevator or 'lift' system so members can more easily navigate the Post's three floors.

"Milford legislators have always listened to the concerns of Connecticut's military veterans," said Gregory Smith, Post 7788's Commander. "We look forward to working with all community leaders to ensure all men and women who have served our country have the opportunity to enjoy time with their comrades and serve their community through VFW programs, regardless of handicap or disability."

"As more and more of our men and women are returning from their service injured, we need to make sure they have access to our veterans' service organizations and their community meeting areas," said Senator Gayle Slossberg (D-Milford). "As Co-Chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, this funding will be a high priority."

"Our VFW Post 7788 continues to serve our men and women who are overseas and locally," Rep. Richard Roy (D-Milford) said. "Helping to provide handicapped accessibility for the Post is another way we can say thank you for what you have done for all of us."

"Helping Post 7788 to become handicapped accessible is something I am pleased to support," Rep. Paul Davis (D-117th District) said. "We owe this to the men and women who have served this nation so unselfishly and who continue to serve."

Installation of an elevator system alone will cost up to \$90,000. Lawmakers said state money can be leveraged to boost fundraising efforts by the VFW, the City of Milford and other organizations.

Rep. Amann was a driving force behind establishment of the Legislature's Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs.