

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

KATE BROWNING

1120 Montauk Hwy., Suite G
County Legislator, 3rd District
Mastic, NY 11950
(631) 852-1300
Fax: (631) 852-1303

June 12, 2008

Senator Kenneth Lavallo
325 Middle Country Road, Suite 4
Selden, NY 11784

Dear Senator Lavallo:

Our armed forces are composed of the most courageous and brave Americans our country has to offer. Their sacrifice does not go unnoticed, and as representatives of the people we have an obligation to protect their rights, especially our men and women serving overseas.

Current New York State Retirement Law states that civil service employees must choose between their best three years on the job, or their last three years of employment towards their retiring pension. These brave men and women have no choice but to answer the call of duty and leave their jobs for extended periods of time. Because these service members must leave they are at a disadvantage. The current law does not take into account their military deployment, and the result can have a negative impact on their retirement.

Service members should not be punished for the sacrifice they make for their country. It is only right that we exempt their years during military deployment when computing their retirement benefits. State legislation must be introduced in order to make this a reality. I am hopeful my colleagues in the state legislature will draft the necessary amendment to right this wrong. I would appreciate a response as to your intentions regarding this injustice.

I look forward to seeing this change become a reality. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 852-1300.

Sincerely,

Kate Browning, Legislator
Third Legislative District
Suffolk County Legislature

KMB/js

CC: NYS Senator Kenneth Lavallo
NYS Assemblyman Philip Ramos
NYS Assemblyman Fred Thiele

Cheryl Felice, President, Association of Municipal Employees, Inc.
Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association
Suffolk County Superior Officer's Association
Suffolk County Detective's Association
Suffolk County Correction Officer's Association
Suffolk County Probation Officer's Association
Suffolk County Police Veteran's Association