

## Memorandum

**From - The United War Veteran's Council (UWVC)**

**To - The New York City Council**

**Re - Welcome Home Parade for- Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan (OEF - A)**

**Date - May 23, 2014**

Our countries largest city, New York City, where the 9/11 attacks occurred, is the fitting location to honor the expected returning US military veterans from this theater of operation on the war on terror.

Our great city became known for it famous ticker tape parades beginning in 1880 honoring the dedication of the "Statue of Liberty".

Subsequently there have been dozens of both planned and impromptu parades honoring important events in our countries history & significant individuals who have impacted our culture.

Operation Enduring Freedom -A is one of 4 OEF engagements. Other theaters are in Africa & the Philippines.

OEF - A is scheduled to be completed this year, 2014.

It signals the winding down of our countries longest war.

New York City has over 250,000 active Veterans.

We have five forts surrounding our harbor and one of our nations premiere military schools, West Point, just up river. Along with Merchant Marine Academies, multiple air fields and de-activated Navel facilities; our City is ideally suited and justified, as the site of the countries most devastating terrorists attacks, to host a "Welcome Home Parade" in NYC to herald the end of hostilities.

When would we do it?

November 11, 2014 is the 95th consecutive "Veterans Day Parade". This would be our target date for the "Welcome Home Parade"

The NYC Veterans Day Parade is a nationally televised event that currently reaches into 20 markets nation wide from San Diego to Boston & Miami to Seattle.

The parade route would be through the "Canyon of Heroes" on lower Broadway. The beginning and end of the route will have to be worked out with the NYC Office of City Wide Events, the NYPD and the Down Town Alliance.

~~THE UNITED WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, A 501(c)(3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION, HAS BEEN CREATING THIS~~  
event and other events that honor service, sense 1986 when it took over the responsibility for  
creating and producing our nations salute to our veterans from the NYC American Legion.

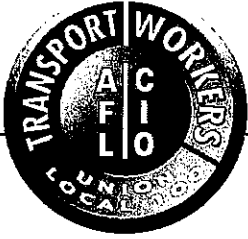
UWVC is a self funded operation that supports the events it produces through individual &  
corporate financial donations & through a recycling program we operate in cooperation with the  
NYC Department of Sanitation.

UWVC is well known to our NYC agencies and has a long record of being able to coordinate all  
the activity between the various city agencies, branches of the military and with the US  
Department of Defense & The Pentagon.

Why is the a good idea at this time?

- We are winding down our countries longest engagement in combat and our citizens are  
fatigue and in need of the beginning of closure.
- As a nation we are in the process of reducing our fighting forces & it is appropriate we  
release these honorable men & women with a sincere **Thank You** from a grateful nation.
- Plans for 11/11/14 are already in place and expanding to include the "Nations Welcome  
Home Parade" can be accommodated.
- UWVC self funds the events it produces to honor service and would increase our efforts to  
include the added responsibility for funding this national event.
- As General George Washington stated ***"The willingness with which our young people  
are likely to serve is any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to  
how they perceive veterans of early wars were treated & appreciated by our nation."***

Thank you,  
Vince McGowan, President  
United War Veterans Council



# TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION

OF GREATER NEW YORK • AFL-CIO • LOCAL 100

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*Recording Secretary*

**Angel Giboyeaux**  
*Administrative VP*

Testimony to the City Council Committee on Veterans  
Marvin Holland, Political and Legislative Director, Transport Workers Union Local 100  
May 23, 2014

Good afternoon, my name is Marvin Holland. I am a Stations Cleaner, and have worked with the Transit Authority for twenty-three years. I have also been serving the Transport Workers Union Local 100 as the Political and Legislative Director for the past three years. Before my time with TWU Local 100, I served in the United States Navy from 1982 to 1986.

Before I continue with my testimony, I want to thank Councilman Eric Ulrich, first and foremost, for his tremendous support and advocacy on behalf of veterans and public employees throughout New York. Thank you for introducing Resolution 200-2014, which calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign, S.4714 and A.6974. This legislation would allow credit to members of the public retirement systems of New York State for any military service.

I also want to thank Councilmembers Cabrera, Cohen, Maisel, and Vallone for giving veterans the opportunity to testify on this very important issue, which affects our retirement from civil service. New York State Retirement and Social Security Law currently permits active public employees who served in the military during only specified periods or conflicts to purchase up to three years of credit for their military service with an honorable discharge. This means that veterans who served in wars between 1941 and 1946; between 1950 and 1955; and between 1961 and 1975 are eligible to credit their pension with their military service. Other veterans who are eligible include those who were deployed to conflicts in Lebanon Grenada, Panama, and the Middle East.

Because I was stationed in Maine from 1982 to 1986, I do not qualify under current state law to purchase credits toward my pension. Like me, thousands of hardworking public sector union members who served in the military face the same restrictions. When Americans enlist in the military, we make our decision based on our commitment to protect our families and our country. We are ready to respond to the call of duty no matter where it takes us. We strongly feel that all of our military service, whether in times of conflict or peace, should be honored, and count towards the service we dedicate working for the State of New York.

Therefore, S.4714/A6974 has the support of not only TWU Local 100, but also many public sector unions across New York, the New York State AFL-CIO, and the New York City Central Labor Council. In fact, we came together for a joint lobby day in Albany on April 29th to ask for the support of our State Senators and Assemblymembers to pass the bill. We sincerely hope that the City Council will back our efforts to honor all veterans by passing Resolution 200-2014.



# **SUPPORT Memorandum**

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Mario F. Cilento  
President

Terrence L. Melvin  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike Neidl  
Legislative Director

## **ON GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE AGENDA 4/29/14**

### **HONOR ALL VETERANS' MILITARY SERVICE EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE VETERAN SERVICE CREDIT**

#### **A. 6974-A Paulin/S. 4714-A Larkin**

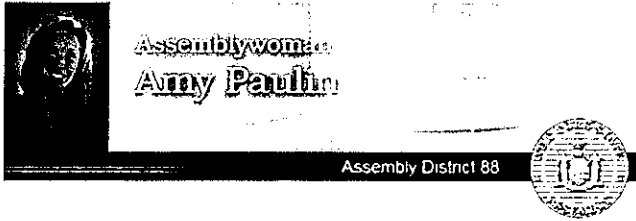
The New York State AFL-CIO representing 2.5 million union workers and their families as well as our retirees and their families, supports the above-referenced legislation.

This legislation would expand the current veteran retirement buyback by removing limitations on the periods of time during which military service was rendered for purposes of determining eligibility. The bill also removes the limitations that the applicant served in the theatre of operations during the period of conflict.

This important bill recognizes the value of all veterans' service to our country and would allow them to purchase up to three years of retirement credit for time spent in military service. Time spent in the military defending our nation is the ultimate public service and should be calculated with all other public service.

Therefore, this Federation urges this bill be passed.

For further information, contact the Legislative Department at 518-436-8516.



### Press Advisory

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 | Albany, New York

#### **ASSEMBLYMEMBER AMY PAULIN, THE NYS AFL-CIO, AND VETERANS' GROUPS CALL ON LEGISLATURE TO PASS EQUAL PUBLIC RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETERANS**

**What:** Press conference in support of Military Buyback Bill - A6974/S4714

**When:** Tuesday, April 29th at 1pm

**Where:** Million Dollar Staircase, Capitol Building, third floor

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Assemblymember Amy Paulin, New York State AFL-CIO affiliates, and veterans' groups will gather for a press conference on the Million Dollar Staircase to demonstrate their support for the Military Buyback Bill (A6974/S4714).

A6974A/S4717 would amend the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law to allow all public sector workers who were honorably discharged from the military to purchase up to three years of credit towards their pension.

Currently, Article 20 of the Retirement and Social Security Law excludes all peacetime veterans and even some who served during designated periods of conflict from Desert Storm to the present day.

Lead sponsor Assemblymember Amy Paulin said, "All of the men and women who served in our military should be able to take advantage of the veteran's service credit buy back. The current law, which makes this opportunity dependent on the dates served, is unfair. Everyone who joins the armed forces takes a risk that they will see combat. Luckily most of our soldiers never see that risk realized including those who get the buy back now. Moreover, this legislation will encourage more young people to serve our country - both in the military and as public employees."

For more information, contact Andrew Buder at (518) 455-5585.

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**Vietnam Veterans of America**  
**New York State Council**  
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(518) 338-8147 Fax (518) 793-8922  
[www.nyvva.org](http://www.nyvva.org)

*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

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## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

**S4714A – Senator Larkin / A6974A MOA Paulin**

**AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing credit to members of public retirement systems of the state for military service**

This bill, which would be effective immediately upon its enactment, would permit all military veterans who have served our country, regardless of when and where, and who are public employees, the opportunity to purchase service credit from public retirement systems of the state.

Current law permits only certain military veterans to purchase this service credit, depending upon when (in times of certain conflicts) and where (within or outside theaters of military operation) they served. The reality of military service is that an individual who serves has no control over where they serve, or whether their service will include time of conflict. The fact that they served in our military, and, therefore, were unable to perform civilian service (for which they would have been able to accrue service time in a public retirement system) contemporaneously, should suffice as the sole requirement for the option to purchase the credit.

On behalf of the more than 300,000 Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans, the largest single block of veterans in New York State's population of almost one million veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council strongly urges support of the above-captioned legislation.

**Ned D. Foote**  
President

**Bing Markee**  
Legislative Director

# NEW YORK STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS UNION



## LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT MEMO

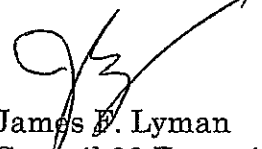
Council 82 strongly supports the passage of  
**S4714A/A6974A**  
Extending Pension Credit to All of New York's Military Veterans

This important legislation will offer recognition to all of New York's military veterans, no longer excluding those who served in the military during times of peace. Currently, members of New York State's public retirement systems who have a minimum of 5 years of credited service may receive up to three years of service credit for their military service, provided their military service was during specified periods of hostilities. The current law properly honors the service of those who served during times of hostilities, but denigrates the service of those who didn't serve during those times.

When men and women of the military volunteer for service, they don't know when or if hostilities will arise or whether they will be called to a field of battle. Nevertheless, courageous New Yorkers enlisted in the military and served our country. Our military and our nation depend upon this kind of bravery and selflessness.

Council 82 strongly supports this bill, which will remove service restrictions from the Veterans Service Credit Law of 2000, extend the same three years of pension credit to all those who served in the military, and offer all veterans the honor, respect, and recognition they deserve for their military service.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
James F. Lyman  
Council 82 Executive Director

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**STEVEN TAGLIANI**  
Fire Marshal Representative

**Memorandum in Support of S.4714-A (Larkin)/A.6974-A (Paulin)**

*An act to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing credit to members of public retirement systems of the state for military service; and making an appropriation therefor*

The Uniformed Firefighters Association, which represents 22,000 active and retired Firefighters, Fire Marshals, Wipers, Pilots and Marine Engineers, strongly supports the above legislation. This legislation would expand the current veteran retirement buyback by removing limitations on the periods of time during which military service was rendered for purposes of determining eligibility. The bill also removes the limitations that the applicant served in the theatre of operations during the period of conflict. This important bill recognizes the value of all veterans' service to our country and would allow them to purchase up to three years of retirement credit for time spent in military service. Time spent in the military defending our nation is the ultimate public service and should be calculated with all other public service.

For these reasons the Uniformed Firefighters Association urges the legislature to support this bill. Failing to do so will leave an inequity in place denying service credits to members that rightfully deserve them.





# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PBAs

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Yonkers, NY

## MEMORANDUM

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# SUPPORT

The New York State Association of PBAs, Inc., the largest police organization in the state, representing more than 45,000 police officers, strongly supports this legislation.

**Michael J. Palladino**  
President

**Peter Paterson**  
Legislative Chairman



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM



NYSUT represents more than 600,000 professionals in education and health care. Affiliated with AFT • NEA • AFL-CIO.



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(518) 213-6000, (800) 342-9810

Stephen K. Allinger, Director of Legislation

Table with 3 columns: Bill Number, Author, and Committee. Row 1: S-4714-A, Larkin, Finance Committee. Row 2: A-6974-A, Paulin, Governmental Employees Committee.

PROVISIONS OF BILL:

This legislation expands the crediting of military service to allow all veterans to receive credit for their military service.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

Currently state statute affords New Yorkers who are former military personnel the option to purchase service credit in a public retirement system for service rendered during various conflicts including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and for hostilities in the Persian Gulf, Lebanon, Grenada and Panama. Service outside of these specific time frames is not eligible for credit toward retirement under current law.

By limiting this benefit to specified periods, thousands of public employees who served out nation with distinction have been prevented from obtaining service credit toward their retirement in the same manner as their brothers and sisters in arms who served during times of conflict.

It is high time the state recognize that all of our citizens who choose to serve in our nations volunteer military are ready to put their lives in danger at moment's notice to protect and defend the United States and its people. These brave individuals risk death and injury in service to our nation and should be afforded the same benefits as those who served during times of overseas conflicts.

This legislation honors those who served by extending this credit purchase opportunity to all veterans and recognizes the personal sacrifices our military personnel make to assure the continued security of our nation. It is just and right that all of our military personnel should be allowed to receive service credit in New York State's public retirement systems for their service, regardless of when and where these personnel were stationed.

NYSUT STRONGLY URGES THE ENACTMENT OF THIS LEGISLATION.

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PS
4/28/14
S-Finance