



## REPRESENTING NEW JERSEY'S 34<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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### Giblin Hails Assembly Passage of Veterans Protection Package

Assemblyman Giblin enthusiastically supported a 13-bill package that aims to enhance the quality of life and provide new protection for New Jersey's military Veterans and their families.

Among the bills was a measure (A-2726) to establish a 15-member commission to address the special needs of Women Veterans.

"There are more Female Veterans than ever before and the contributions made by women in our armed forces will only continue to grow," said Giblin, who helped sponsor the bill. "Most Veterans programs are geared to help only male Veterans. This commission will ensure that issues affecting women Veterans are included as priorities in our state's safety net for Veterans."

The Assemblyman also co-sponsored legislation (A-1456) that would extend the state's "Veterans' preference" designation to Veterans who are already eligible for a similar federal designation used to rank job applicants for civil service positions.

"New Jersey must provide our Veterans with every opportunity to be successful in civilian life when they return home



Assemblyman Giblin joins top Veteran advocates at a recent Assembly Veterans Affairs meeting. (From L to R) Frank Moore, Commander of the State VFW; Steve Duncan, Commander of the DAV; Assemblyman Giblin and Chuck Robbins, Commander of the American Legion.

from serving and protecting our country," said Giblin.

A third measure (A3281) Giblin co-sponsored would commission a study on the costs associated with expanding home health care services to give Veterans an alternative to institutionalized care.

"Veterans who put their lives on the line in defense of our country deserve to be remembered and cared for," said Giblin.

The Veterans package passed the full Assembly and has been sent to the Senate for further consideration.

### Red Cross Honors Assemblyman Giblin

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin was honored by the Montclair-Glen Ridge-Nutley Chapter of the American Red Cross at its 10th Comradeship Award Gala that took place at Mayfair Farms in West Orange in February.

The Comradeship Award recognizes individuals who have a significant positive impact on the quality of life for area residents.

"When I was growing up, it was impressed upon me to help other people and to always try to make the world a better place than the way we found it," said Giblin. "I have always tried to adhere to that ethic and it is a great honor to be recognized for something that you enjoy doing."

Assemblyman Giblin's numerous contributions include: serving as Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 68, Trustee of Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair, former director of Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey for more than two decades, former executive board member of the Essex Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the New Jersey Association for Retarded Citizens of Essex. He also serves as Trustee of St. Barnabas Medical Center Burn Foundation and Honorary Trustee of the Senior Care and Activities Center in Montclair.

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton and it continues to promote its mission of assisting people impacted by emergencies and disasters.



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# The Giblin Report

## News from Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin

Dear Neighbor:

It is an honor to have the opportunity to serve in the state Legislature on behalf of the residents of the 34th Legislative District -- East Orange, Glen Ridge, Montclair, Clifton and West Paterson.

The issues affecting families in these communities are similar to other areas of the state: property taxes, education funding, health care, senior citizen services, consumer protection, veterans programs, transportation and the environment.

As your elected representative, I take the job of constituent communications very seriously. That is what this newsletter is all about.

Working alongside my distinguished colleagues -- Senator Nia H. Gill and Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver -- we make it a point to stay engaged and keep you informed. One way we achieve this end is by being responsive as much as possible on a personal basis.

Whether it is legislation or a local constituent issue, please remember that we are committed to serving your interests and my district office is at your call.

My district office:  
Assemblyman Thomas Giblin  
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Please feel free to e-mail me directly:  
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or call me: 973.779.3125

Sincerely,

THOMAS P. GIBLIN  
Assemblyman for District 34



Working to improve life for families and seniors in District 34 -- Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, and Senator Nia H. Gill

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Assemblyman Giblin gets warmed up for the 2007 Little League season with Ivy Hill Little League President Houston Stevens, Newark Councilman Ronald C. Rice, Coach Eli Simmons and the Giblin Shamrocks, who will be playing at parks across Essex County.

# GIBLIN TOURS WEST PATERSON FOLLOWING FLOOD DAMAGE FROM NOR'EASTER

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin toured West Paterson, one of the many New Jersey communities impacted by flooding caused by April's nor'easter.

Giblin accompanied West Paterson Mayor Pat LePore and Council President Keith Kazmark to view first hand the damage from the record-setting rain storm.

"What happened in West Paterson happened in dozens of community all across the state," said Giblin. "This was some of the most wide-spread flooding that has occurred in state history."

Six New Jersey counties — including Passaic County — received a federal disaster declaration that will enable homeowners, renters and business owners to rebuild using federal grants and low-interest loans.

Portions of West Paterson are prone to flooding, particularly along the Peckman and Passaic rivers. Storms often cause the Peckman River to reverse flow and cause inland flooding which has lead to flash flooding and the loss of lives in the past.

Giblin urged residents affected by the recent floods to make sure to contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency for



Assemblyman Giblin joins West Paterson Mayor LePore for a tour of the flood-damage caused by last month's nor'easter.

assistance. Flood victims must first register by calling 800-621-3362 or going online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

FEMA has opened a regional disaster recovery center at Thomas Rogers Building, 2nd Floor, 2 Market Street, Paterson. Victims, however, cannot register at the center.

## Bill Would Help Students Transfer Credits To Four-Year Colleges and Universities

In-state students who earn a two-year degree from a county college can transfer their credits toward a four-year degree at one of the state's higher education institutions under legislation Assemblyman Giblin is sponsoring.

Giblin, a member of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, says students shouldn't be forced to pay twice for coursework they have already learned and completed.

"Students who receive an Associate's Degree at a New Jersey county college should be able to transfer their college credits towards a four-year degree at a state college or university," said Giblin.

The bill (A-3968) would require all state public colleges and universities to participate in a program that would create a uniform agreement for transferring course credits. Private and independent schools also would have the option to participate in the transfer agreement program.

"We must do everything we can to encourage New Jersey's young people to further their educations," said Giblin. "By ensuring that college credits seamlessly transfer from county colleges to four-year colleges and universities we are promoting the significance of higher education for all New Jerseyans."

The transfer program would begin in the 2008-2009 academic year if the bill becomes law.

# Giblin Works to Keep Mountainside Hospital Open

Assemblyman Giblin wants to ensure that the residents of Montclair and Glen Ridge continue to have convenient access to quality health care services in the wake of the pending sale of Mountainside Hospital near the border of the two communities.

"A trend of hospital consolidations in recent years has reduced the number of hospitals in Montclair from three to one," said Giblin. "St. Vincent's and Montclair Community hospitals have ceased operations and all efforts need to be made to ensure that Mountainside continues to fill the resulting void."

Before endorsing the sale of Mountainside Hospital to Merit Health Systems, Giblin sat down with the new owners to make sure that they are dedicated to providing the best medical care for area residents.

"I have met with the people at Merit and found them to be competent and experienced in the

healthcare field," said Giblin, "I feel the approval of this sale will be the best thing for both the hospital and the communities it serves."

Giblin said Merit gave assurances that it would continue to operate Mountainside in manner reflective of its

tradition as a community hospital, providing acute care and high-quality services.

Giblin said the hospital's new management team gave him assurances that they are planning the following actions at Mountainside:



- Continue to operate and maintain all existing beds at the hospital
- Committed to making \$20 million worth of capital improvements and physician recruiting expenditures
- Maintain current level of indigent care
- Will substantially hire all hospital employees who are employed at the time of sale
- Enhance revenues, effect operational efficiencies, and improve resource utilization in order to reverse the recent operating losses at the facility while simultaneously maintaining the current level of services

# Giblin Votes In Favor of Sweeping Autism Package

Responding to a new federal study that identified New Jersey as the state with the highest autism rates, Assemblyman Giblin enthusiastically supported a seven-bill package to improve detection, treatment and public awareness of the mysterious neurological disorder.

"Families impacted by autism encounter enormous challenges," Giblin said. "The financial and emotional stresses can be overwhelming."

A recent study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that one out of every 94 New Jersey children is afflicted with some form of autism. The national rate is one out of 150 children.

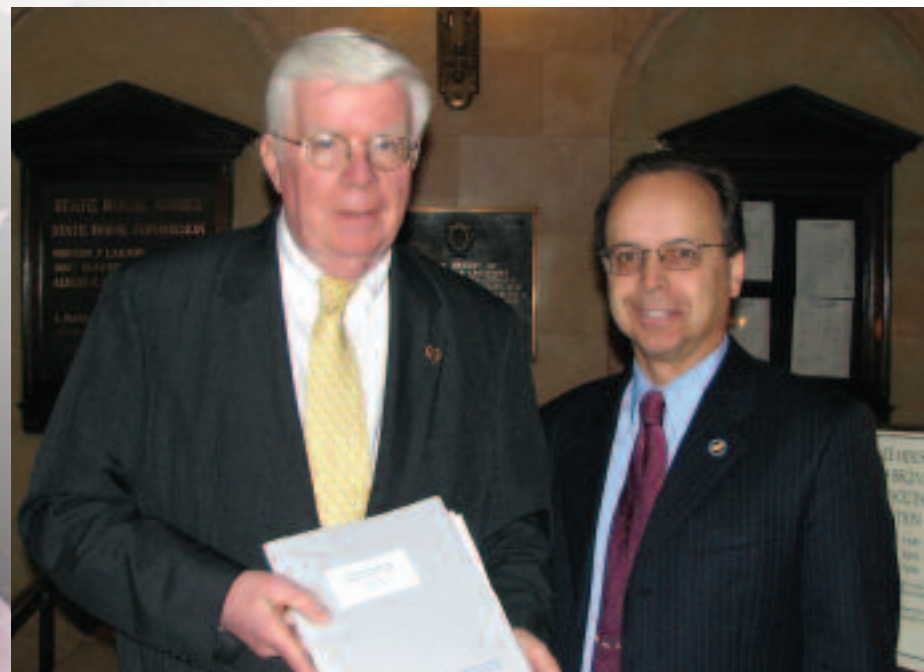
Giblin said the state also is encountering a rise in the number of autistic adults that need housing and assistance programs.

The autism legislative package would do the following:

- Establish a centralized state-wide autism registry
- Train teachers in autism awareness
- Create a task force on adult autism
- Require autism awareness training for emergency personnel
- Provide additional funding for the Governor's Council on Autism
- Instruct physicians in early detection
- Restructure the Governor's Council on Autism

"This comprehensive package would help to improve awareness by doctors, emergency medical workers, teachers, as well as scientific researchers and social workers," said Giblin. "Families also will receive a helping hand to meet the special needs of autistic children who are now aging out of the public education system into adulthood."

Autism is a mysterious brain disorder that affects development and communication.



New Jersey Council of County Colleges President Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli reviews higher education legislation with Assemblyman Giblin, a member of the Assembly Higher Education Committee.