

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

STEPHANIE KIFOWIT



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Leftovers, Infrastructure, and more

Happy December

It seems like we were just talking about Thanksgiving and now we are heading full steam into December and looking forward to Christmas. I hope that you have had a good Thanksgiving, ate all your left overs and have transitioned into the Holiday/Christmas season. While my son was not able to join us for Thanksgiving, I'm excited that he was able to secure leave for the Christmas holiday and I will be seeing him soon. As I've mentioned before, please keep our active duty servicemembers in your thoughts as they continue to serve without being able to come home.

One of the enjoyable parts of my position is giving recognition where recognition is due. Congratulations to the Metea Valley Girls High School Varsity Volleyball Team on their 4A State Title Championship! This team of exceptional young women worked hard to this season, and made history with Metea Valley's first State Title in school history. Congrats!

Finally, I've included a briefing on the recently passed the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that was signed by President Biden. Illinois is stated to get \$17 Billion in funding which will help invest in our communities.

I hope that you all have a great holiday season, celebrating as you and your family enjoy. However, sometimes the holidays can be difficult so please reach out to my office if you need any help or assistance at (630) 585-1308.

Take care and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie".



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2021

I was honored to attend several Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremonies this month.

80 years have passed since the attack on Pearl Harbor which not only engaged the United States in World War II, but also cost 2,335 Americans their lives. There were 2,008 Navy personnel, 109 Marines, and 218 Army casualties the day of the attack making it one of the worst attacks on American soil. 1,177 of these deaths were from the USS Arizona, a United States Navy Battleship and 8 Navy Battleships were either damaged or sunk. The attack on December 7th, 1941 has been remembered as a day in which many Americans on the island of Honolulu fought to defend their country, even under the dire circumstance.

On August 23, 1994, Congress designated December 7th as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Events are still held at Pearl Harbor every year to honor and remember the service members and civilians who were killed that day.

This Remembrance Day, I spent time with World War II Veterans to honor the anniversary of Pearl Harbor and to hear from the personal experiences of these Veterans. I was also happy to see eleven standout high school students win their Ted Brattin Civic Youth Awards. It's important to teach and ensure that future generations will understand the valor and legacy of all those who perished fighting throughout the war.

Learn more about Pearl Harbor [Here](#) and remember to thank a Veteran in your community. With roughly 300,000 Veterans from World War 2 still alive today, it's important to not only learn this history but honor all those who served and perished that fateful day to defend our Freedoms.



Upper center: Representative Kifowit, Hirschauer and Senator Holmes stand with recognized WWII Veterans at the Aurora Navy League's Annual Pearl Harbor Day Luncheon. **Lower Left:** Representative Kifowit presents WWII Don O'Reilly with a

Illinois getting \$17 Billion from Infrastructure Bill

This past month, the United States Congress passed the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill and President Biden signed the law with bipartisan support. This is the largest ever investment to our country's infrastructure. The passage of this bill is not only important to Illinois, but ensures that long overdue repairs are given to our state's buildings, roads, pipes, and more.

The Infrastructure and Jobs Act:

- Stimulates economic growth with the creation of millions of jobs
- Repairs crumbling highways, roads, and bridges.
 - There are over 2,300 bridges and 6,000 miles of highways in Illinois that are deemed "poor condition"
- Replaces lead pipes and delivers clean drinking water
 - Illinois has the most lead pipes of any state in the country
- Improves buildings across the state to sustain extreme weather such as tornadoes, heavy rain, and colder temperatures/snowfalls
 - In the past decade, Illinois has experienced 48 extreme weather event, costing Illinois \$50 Billion in damages
- Builds a national network of electric vehicle chargers
 - Propels Illinois to Increase electric vehicle production and investment
- Expand broadband internet access to help connect every Illinois resident to reliable, safe, and high-speed internet

Illinois isn't expected to receive the dollars until the first few months of next year, but I am excited to see that our state will finally get major repairs. Learn more about the Infrastructure Bill and all its components [Here](#).



Illinois Rental Payment Program Dec. 6th - Jan. 9th

Tenants behind on rent due to Covid-19 can apply for up to \$25,000 in rental assistance through the Illinois Rental Payment Program between December 6th and January 9th!



The Illinois Rental Payment Program provides assistance to eligible Illinois renters impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Tenants whose application is approved will receive a one-time grant of up to \$25,000 paid directly to their landlord to cover missed rent payments beginning June 2020 and prepay payment through April 2022, or until the grant is exhausted, whichever comes first. Both landlords and tenants participate in the joint application process.

ILRPP is designed to help tens of thousands of Illinois renters avoid eviction and stay safe and in place during this public health crisis. Please note: an application is not a guarantee of assistance.

Will County tenants can apply for assistance at www.willcountyillinois.org or call **1-866-454-3571** if you have any questions.

Health Coverage Enrollment Runs until January 15 2022

YOUR HEALTH COVERAGE ENROLLMENT STARTS HERE

Open Enrollment for the
ACA Marketplace Begins Nov. 1



Open Enrollment for the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace started on Nov. 1, 2021. Don't forget to review and compare your health plan options before you choose or renew for 2022. Free assistance is available to help you enroll and you may qualify for financial help. Visit: <https://GetCoveredIllinois.gov>

Veteran Peer Supporter Training January 13th, 14th, 15th 2022

Any Veterans looking to serve and assist their fellow Veterans with mental and social health training please see below for more info! Email info@illinoisjoiningforces.org or call Jim Dolan at **(630)-750-5522** with any questions or additional information.

Apply for the Supporter Training Online by [Completing the Application Here](#).



COMMUNITY VETERAN PEER SUPPORTER TRAINING

for

Aurora Region Veterans

NEW DATES: January 13, 14, 15 2022

Who:
All Aurora Region Veterans willing to serve other Veterans

What:
Free Community Veteran Peer Training (Limited #)

Where:
Online Training

When: **NEW DATES**
January 13th, 14th, 15th

How: Apply online – <https://forms.gle/KqvkSZFFb5NKL4ov9>

Why:
To provide you with the knowledge, skills and training to support fellow Veterans in your community.

Questions or want more information, please contact:

Illinois Joining Forces by email at: info@illinoisjoiningforces.org

Subject line: PEER TRAINING

Or, contact:
Jim Dolan at 630-750-5522

TO APPLY, GO ONLINE TO:
<https://forms.gle/KqvkSZFFb5NKL4ov9>

The **Community Veteran Peer Training** is available at no cost to veterans willing to serve their fellow veterans in the Aurora Region. Veterans must be willing to complete a 3-day virtual peer training course, plus one additional day (TBD) of *Mental Health First Aid Training*.

PURPOSE
The goal of the Community Veteran Peer Supporter course is to prepare Veterans with the skills to assist other Veterans who are going through difficult transitions as it relates to social determinants of health.

OUTCOMES
Upon completion of the course:

1. Veterans will be well versed in the use of problem-solving tools such as motivational interviewing and SMART goals to assist another Veteran to develop their own goals.
2. Create strategies for self-empowerment, and take concrete steps towards building fulfilling, self-determined lives for themselves.
3. Peer supporter ethics will instruct on setting appropriate peer to peer boundaries and strategies to implement them.
4. **Mental Health First Aid** will reinforce the role of the Community Veteran Peer Supporter as a lay person lacking clinical expertise and insight and to clearly define the role as one of a peer providing support.

COMMITMENT

1. 30 hours of Virtual Peer Training.*
2. Must be available for training on **January 13th, 14th, 15th ~ 2022**. And, one addition day of training. TBD.
3. Agree to serve other Aurora Region Veterans for up to 10 hours a month for a minimum period of 12 months after completion of the

Sponsored by:

Special thanks to the [Dunham Foundation](#) for their generous financial support.

DUNHAM FOUNDATION

In Partnership with:

[Illinois Joining Forces](#) is proud to bring this important training to the Aurora Region veterans in partnership with the [Kane County Veterans Assistance Commission](#) & [Roosevelt/Aurora American Legion Post #84](#)

**The course work is designed to provide the flexibility of distance learning while creating a focused learning environment that allows skill development through interpersonal interaction.*



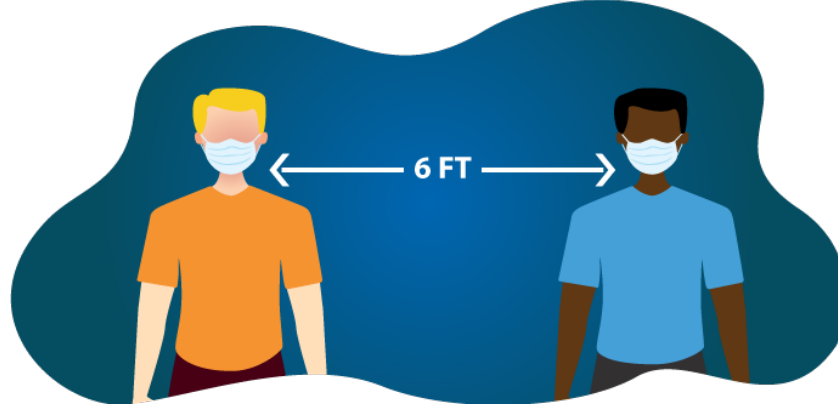
Illinois Joining Forces www.illinoisjoiningforces.org 833-INFO-IJF (463-6453)

COVID-19 Updates

I'm excited COVID-19 booster shots are becoming more and more available with holiday travel upon us. Thank you for doing your part in getting the vaccine or a booster, wearing a mask when needed, hand sanitizing, and keeping your distance to stop the spread.

Family gatherings are an important part of the holiday season and in celebrating the festivities. Getting your vaccines not only keeps you healthy and safe, but everyone else around you as well. If you need assistance in obtaining a Covid Vaccine or a Flu shot contact my district office and we can find a Vaccine Clinic near you.

If you are in need of more information on the vaccine, booster shots, and travel guidance for the 2021 holiday season please visit [IDPH](#) for information!



Facebook Live Every Monday at 9:00am

I continue to host Monday Morning Coffee live via Facebook at 9:00am-10:00am where you can post your comments and questions.

I realize not everyone has Facebook. The good news is that you can still participate. If you would like to join us on Monday mornings, you can join in via ZOOM! Once connected via ZOOM, you'll be able to interact just as if you were on Facebook. Don't worry you will not be on live - your video feed and mic will be muted.

The ZOOM link will be emailed to everyone separately for Monday morning participation.

If you would like to join us, please email Michelle@ILDistrict84.com or call the office at 630.585.1308.

f LIVE

**MONDAY MORNING
COFFEE WITH
REPRESENTATIVE KIFOWIT**
9:00am

You can find us on FB :
@ILDistrict84

630.585.1308

stephanie.kifowit@att.net

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