

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

**STEPHANIE KIFOWIT**



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## 103rd General Assembly begins

As I reflect on the ten years that I have been serving in the General Assembly, I feel like I just got here. The time has gone by so quickly. When I was sworn in for the first time in 2013 my kids were 10 and 15. Now ten years later, my "baby" is 20 going on 21 and serving in the Navy in Japan (I know I repeat myself but I am a proud Mom), my daughter is back in college at 25.

The amount of knowledge I have from my 10 years of service is vast; however, I still feel like there is so much more I have to learn about the functions of our state. I remember being on the back of the stage 10 years ago, fearful of my chair legs going off the riser and today I'm in the 2nd row. I want to thank the representatives who have moved on to other opportunities that I have served with, they helped me in so many ways. I am proud that during my 10 years, all of my sponsored bills have passed with bi-partisan support and I intend to continue to work with members on both sides of the aisle in this new General Assembly.



I am eternally grateful for the wonderful people and interns who have helped me run my district office these past 10 years. I miss Sally almost every day because she was taken by cancer too soon, and I appreciate all those years Andrea put in for the residents of the 84th district. Today, Molly and Michelle carry on the duties that those before them did, and they are doing an excellent job.

As I took my oath of office on January 11th to continue to serve the residents of the 84th district into the next decade; I pledge that I will be a resource to the new representatives who are joining us; I will continue to be available to those who need help and assistance to the best of my ability, and I will stay humble and honored as I continue to have this amazing opportunity to serve that I have been blessed with.

We returned to Springfield on January 31st and we are ready to get to work!

Take care and be well,

P.S. Please reach out to our office if you need assistance at (630)-585-1308 or send me an email.

## Visiting my Navy son in Japan.

I returned from Japan approximately 2 weeks ago, I was visiting my son Sam, he is enlisted in the Navy and stationed in Yokosuka. It was wonderful to spend time with him during his leave and create memories. We took public transportation everywhere, and only got on one wrong bus and missed one stop on the train. Google maps and translate were my best friends.

I was stationed in Okinawa Japan three decades ago, and I had to smile when we checked in to visit Sam's base and the young Sailor told me I was still in their system. Once you serve, it is always in your system - so I'm glad I'm still in theirs.

The country is organized, clean (there are no public trash cans - everyone helps keep the area clean) and efficient. We ate pizza every day (my son is a picky eater) and found a Starbucks on every corner. We watched the Shibuya Crossing, the worlds busiest pedestrian crossing with as many as 3,000 people crossing at a time! We went to the Tokyo Skytree (but I admit the Sears tower is a little better IMHO), the Senso-ji Temple, a Shrine, an outdoor food market, saw the outside of the Imperial Palace and overall just enjoyed the Japanese culture. Happy Year of the Rabbit!!



## New Illinois laws to know in 2023

This year more than 180 bills go into effect as new state laws. Those laws will affect healthcare, children in state care, reduced fees for seniors and more. New laws you should know about include:

- The cost of license plate registration will be reduced from \$24 to \$10 for low-income seniors and people with disabilities (HB5304)
- New rights were enacted for nursing home residents that include among other things, the right to be treated with courtesy and respect (SB1633).
- Taxpayers will be able to access an interactive map on the State of Illinois Comptroller's website that provides the location and annual financial information of all statewide taxing bodies (HB0568).
- Homeowner associations will be assured the right to file an appeal to the Property



- Tax Appeal Board on behalf of homeowners (SB3069).
- Health insurance plans will be required to offer coverage for hormone therapy treatment for women who have undergone a hysterectomy (House Bill 5254).
- In the Foster Children's Bill of Rights Act, the list of rights is expanded to include new items designed to support children transitioning in and out of the foster care system (House Bill 5418).
- The Family Bereavement Leave Act will now permit up to 10 work days of unpaid leave from work due to a miscarriage, unsuccessful fertility procedure, failed adoption, failed surrogacy agreement, diagnosis that negatively impacts fertility, or stillbirth (Senate Bill 3120).
- Returning military service members will have better access to gain civilian work experience through the SkillBridge program for employers and transitioning service members. SkillBridge is designed for service members to gain civilian work experience through industry training apprenticeships or internships during their last 180 days of service (House Bill 5385).

[Read the rest of list of new laws HERE](#)

You can also visit the Illinois General Assembly website to look up bill information [HERE](#)

## Year in Review

So many good things happened in our District this past year. We achieved so much in 2022. We've got all the info for you.





# Illinois House District 84 Year in Review



Veterans Assistance  
Commission Reform Bill



Representative Kifowit named to  
newly created House Working Group



Vaccine and Flu Shot Clinics



Representative Kifowit Selected as  
Director of National Women's  
Legislative Network



50+ Coffee with Kifowit  
Facebook Live



170+ Constituent Congratulatory  
Certificates



Valentines Day cards for  
healthcare workers



Honors two Veterans on Illinois  
House floor in Recognition of  
Women's History Month



Annual Recycle and Shred Day



Honors VNA Healthcare  
Professionals for Vaccine Clinic



Provide Meals for Kane County  
Seniors March - November in  
partnership with Kane Senior  
Council



Designates U.S. Highway 20  
through Illinois the "Illinois  
Medal of Honor Highway"



Annual Kids Expo and  
Touch a Truck Event



Renaming a portion of Route  
31 "Dan Dolan Way"



Supply Drive for Mutual  
Ground



Filling gaps in women's health  
insurance coverage



Annual CUPS Bra Drive  
188 collected



Toys for Tots Donation Site



1,500+ Cards sent to Veterans



100+ families utilized Constituent  
Educational Museum Card

## Inauguration Photos

103th Inauguration of the  
Illinois House of Representatives  
January 11, 2023



## National Veterans Legal Services Program

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs is partnering with the National Veterans Legal Services Program to offer *free* access to legal representation for Illinois Veterans and their families before the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CVAC).

NVLSP is a national nonprofit organization that has worked since 1981 to ensure the government delivers to our nation's 22 million Veterans and active duty personnel.

To learn more about NVLSP click [here](#).

To visit the IDVA website click [here](#) to see what services and resources are offered



# NVLSP

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

## Facebook Live

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](mailto:Michelle@ILDistrict84.com) or call the office at 630.585.1308.



A promotional banner for a Facebook Live event. At the top center is a Facebook LIVE logo. Below it, the text reads "MONDAY MORNING COFFEE WITH REPRESENTATIVE KIFOWIT 9:00am". To the left is a small video player showing a woman's face. To the right is a bowl of coffee beans. The background features coffee cups and steam.

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