

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day!

Happy Spring Stephanie,

I hope you had a lovely week. If you're anything like me, you are excited for warm weather to finally set-in and the beautiful Spring and Summer months of the 84th District to be in full swing. Hopefully, the last of the snow is finally behind us and there is only plenty of sunshine ahead!



As the only female Veteran in the General Assembly, I was honored to host Vietnam Veterans and the soldiers of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in Springfield for "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" on March 29th. I was honored to present House Resolution 104 with my good friend, Representative Hoan Huynh. Representative Huynh is the first Vietnamese American and refugee to serve in the General Assembly. His father served alongside American Troops in the Vietnam War. Along with fellow Vietnam Veterans, Rep Huynh arranged for soldiers from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam to come to Springfield and be recognized. These brave individuals from South Vietnam served courageously with our American Troops. After U.S. Armed Forces withdrew from the conflict, many of them were imprisoned under deadly conditions in concentration camps run by the communist Government. Read more about this important day of remembrance below.

Speaking of sunshine ahead, this week of legislative progress in Springfield has only confirmed my strong belief that the future of Illinois is brighter than ever! Last week the House worked overtime to finish passing 443 individual bills, sending them to the Senate. Today is the deadline for the Senate to send most of their bills to the house. The House was in session again this week to continue negotiating the FY 2024 budget working on an other pieces of legislation. We have passed a lot of great bills this session that if signed into law will go far in helping Illinois be the greatest State to live and work in. I am excited to continue working with my colleagues from across the political spectrum in moving these pieces of legislation over the finish line and onto the Governor's desk.

Last week I highlighted some of my bills that have passed the house.

Take care,



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

Recognizing Our Vietnam Era Veterans

On the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, I was honored to be joined by the first Vietnamese American and refugee to serve in the General Assembly, State Rep. Hoan Huynh, along with Vietnam Veteran State Rep. Mark Walker, his fellow American Vietnam Veterans, and Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Veteran soldiers who served along side their American counterparts, to recognized these Veterans for their contributions and sacrifice as we passed House Resolution 104 officially designating March 29th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the State of Illinois.

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1973 withdrawal of U.S. Armed Forces from the Vietnam War.



Left to right: Army Sgt. Cliff Oleson; Marine Corps Cpl. Stephanie Kifowit, State Representative; Retired Army Col. John Moulton, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Retired Army Col. John Raschke.

More than 58,000 members of the United State Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam, and upon returning home, many Veterans were not properly recognized for their service – instead caught-up in the contentious public debate surrounding the United States' involvement.

I joined the Marine Corps after high school, and it wasn't until I returned home and became involved in my local Veterans organizations that I started to get to know the extraordinary generation of Vietnam War Veterans. In my humble opinion, they are the most exceptional generation of Veterans.

The dedication of March 29th as **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day** is meant to recognize how Vietnam Veterans chose to support and properly honor Veterans of later conflicts, despite the way they themselves were treated, and how they continue to serve our communities. On this occasion, I urge us all to commit ourselves to treat Vietnam Veterans with the respect they deserve at all times.

This was a day to honor and thank those brave service members who served in the Vietnam War, and to acknowledge the sacrifices made by them and their families. On behalf of the state of Illinois, we express our eternal gratitude for your service to our country.



Election Day Approaching - April 4

Early voting is now open for the April 4 consolidated general election! Click the links below to access sample ballots and voting information.

Kane County
Kendall County
DuPage County
Will County



Mark Your Calendars:

I am hosting the Secretary of State's Mobile Driver Services Facility at the Fox Valley Mall on May 6th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Come get your license or ID renewed, plus other services!

SECRETARY OF STATEMobile Driver Services Facility

State Representative Stephanie Kifowit
Fox Valley Mall

195 Fox Valley Center Dr, Aurora, IL 60504
Mall Entrance #1
Northwest side of the mall by Macy's
Saturday May 6, 2023
10 AM – 2 PM

- Vision Screening
- Driver's License/State ID Card (Renewal, Replacement, Correction)
- License Plate Renewal Stickers
- Organ/Tissue Donor Registry
- Motor Voter Registration
- Seniors age 65 and older (no charge for state ID)
- Seniors age 75 and older must visit a Secretary of State Driver Services facility to renew driver's license.
- Due to enhanced Security requirements, REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards must be processed at a Driver Services facility and are not available at mobile events.



To renew a current Illinois driver's license or ID card, a valid driver's license or ID card must be presented. To apply for a duplicate or corrected driver's license or ID card, two forms of identification must be presented. For information about acceptable forms of identification, please call 217-782-7044 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

All payments must be made by check, credit card, debit card or money order. NO CASH ACCEPTED.



Alexi Giannoulias Secretary of State

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FOX VALLEY

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, April 1 - Downtown Oswego's Annual Bunny Hop - Details Here

Tuesday, April 4 - Consolidated General Election

Saturday, April 15 - Community Wide Service Day - Details Here

Saturday, April 22 - City of Aurora free Spring Electronics Recycling Drive-Thru - Registration Required

Saturday, April 22 - Art and Market Aurora - Details Here

Sunday, April 23 - Oswego Pop-Up Poetry in the Park, Hudson Crossing - Details Here

Saturday, May 6 - Mobile DMV at Fox Valley Mall hosted by Rep. Kifowit - Details

Saturday, May 6 - Ward 8 Neighborhood Cleanup & Recycling - <u>Details Here</u> or contact the Alderman's Office for the City of Aurora at (630) 256-3020

Saturday, May 13 - Aurora GreenFest returns after 3 years - Details Here

Tuesday, May 16 - Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry's Taco Crawl fundraiser - <u>Details Here</u>

Facebook Live - Moved to April 10

We will **NOT** be hosting Facebook Live on Monday April 3, 2023



Monday's Facebook Live is canceled, but our weekly coffee chats will return immediately on **Monday, April 10.** I hope you can join me then!

If you missed my last Monday Morning Coffee Chat, you can watch it here:



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