



MESSAGE FROM MARSHA
House District 19, State Representative

EXPANDING THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Many people in our state, including the Colorado Legislature, are thankful for the sacrifices that the seniors and veterans of our state have made over their lifetimes. One way that the General Assembly can say **“THANK YOU”** is through the **Colorado Homestead Property Tax Exemption**. This exemption allows people 65 years of age and older, or a veteran who is 100% disabled to apply for a 50% property tax exemption. To put the veterans and senior’s sacrifices and contributions into perspective, I have listed some of the major events that occurred during their lifetimes;

- 1914 World War I begins,
- 1929 Stock Markets crash around the world, the “Great Depression” has begun;
- 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the United States enters World War II; Roosevelt authorizes a project to develop an atomic bomb(the Manhattan Project)
- 1945 USA drops two atomic bombs on Japan, (Hiroshima & Nagasaki) WWII ends;

1953 USA push back Chinese troops in Korea, 55,000 American troops die;
1962 USA intervenes in Vietnam War by 1968 520,000 US troops are in Vietnam;
1973 USA leaves Vietnam, after losing 58,000 men in war;

Like many of your grandparents, my Grandma Patsy lived through all of the above events. My Grandpa Lee worked in the shipyards during the War II, ensuring the ships were safe for passage for our young men who were going to war. Grandma Miklich worked in the mills to make products for the troops. I remember her telling me about the food, water, clothing & money rationing during WWII and the great depression. I also remember her telling me how difficult it was for a woman to feed her children, while her husband was at war.

These stories are written on the hearts and souls of the men and women who fought and lived during these very difficult times. Stories that should never be forgotten, stories that we should learn from...

The men and women who are 65 years and older, and are 100% disabled veterans deserve this property tax exemption under all situations. Currently, the exemption does not allow a senior to transfer the exemption to a new location. If a senior wishes to “downsize” to a smaller home, or move within the state to be closer to children and grandchildren they are currently UNABLE to apply for the exemption unless they live in the new home for at least 10 years.

Also, if a qualified senior’s property is condemned under eminent domain, the current constitutional provision DOES NOT allow them to transfer their exemption to the new location.

And, if a qualified senior’s property is destroyed due to a natural disaster, such as the Hayman Fire, Holly Tornado and Limon Tornado, they are UNABLE to transfer their exemption to a different location.

I aim to change the current constitutional provision to ALLOW for all three conditions; (1) allowing qualified seniors to transfer their property tax exemption with them to their new location without any penalties or additional time required; (2) allowing seniors to transfer their years and exemption to their new home if their property is condemned under eminent domain; and, (3) to allow seniors to transfer their years and exemption to their new home if their home is destroyed due to a natural disaster.

Amending the constitution is a big job for a rookie legislator! The upcoming session begins in January, and Senator Suzanne Williams, the Senate sponsor, and myself anticipate hearings in February or March. We must have

support from 2/3 of the House and 2/3 of the Senate members to get this measure on the 2008 ballot. Please help us by sharing stories and time in the upcoming year to make this a reality!

Our seniors should be able to transfer their exemption if they move, or if their home is condemned or destroyed, but we need your help to get this referred measure on the 2008 ballot. We need **YOU** to send us letters or emails about why this change to the constitution is important to you, your parents and grandparents. We also need you to testify in support of this resolution. This is a change that all voters in the state should have an opportunity to vote on!

For more information on the Senior and Veterans Homestead Exemption Act, please go to WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG, click message, then senior exemption for details.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me anytime at MarshaLooper@hughes.net or call me at 719-238-5600. Thank you for the privilege to serve you!

Sincerely,

Marsha Looper,
Colorado House of Representatives, HD 19