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REP. VALLEE ANNOUNCES NEW VETERAN SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM

(Boston) – Representative James E. Vallee (D-Franklin) urges veterans of Franklin and Medway to take advantage of the Commonwealth’s new veteran smoking cessation program. This program, which was launched earlier in the week, encourages veterans to quit smoking by providing a free 4-week supply of nicotine patches.

During World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, it was standard practice for soldiers to receive cigarettes in their rations. As a result of this and other factors that elevate addiction risks, “veterans are disproportionately affected by smoking-related illnesses,” according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Massachusetts, approximately 24% of the veteran population smokes, this is more than 100,000 veterans.

“It takes a great amount of courage to take this first step to improve one’s quality of life. I hope the state’s new ‘Veterans’ Quit-Smoking Initiative’ can empower veterans and their families to begin this process” said Representative Vallee. “I encourage all interested veterans to contact their local veterans service officer to take advantage of this program and inquire about numerous other state veterans benefits. These benefits are earned benefits and have been pre-paid for by the service of all who have worn the uniform.”

All Massachusetts veterans, national guardmembers and families are eligible for the free nicotine patch program, which is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in collaboration with the state’s Department of Veterans Services. “I applaud this collaboration which provides participants with resources and phone support to assist them in their efforts to quit smoking,” said Vallee.

For information about contacting your local veterans service officer, Franklin veterans please call (508)520-4973 and Medway veterans can call (508)473-3407 or visit www.mvsoa.us. For additional information about the “Quit Smoking Initiative,” please call 1-800-TRY-TO-STOP or visit www.makesmokinghistory.com.

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