



## **2019 National George Texido Legislative Officer of the Year**

### **Lt. Col. Andrew Liput, Connecticut Wing**

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) volunteer Lt. Col. Andrew Liput of Connecticut Wing led the wing's participation in the 2019 National Legislative Day event in Washington, DC. Liput accompanied the wing commander on several legislative visits and directly supported other meetings that day on behalf of the wing commander due to overlap in scheduling.

At the state level, Liput proposed and assisted in passage (including attending legislative sessions in Hartford) of a new law protecting CAP volunteers of Connecticut Wing from employment discrimination. Liput worked with Mr. Paul Tarbox, the Connecticut state's Veterans Affairs Committee leader, and state senators in drafting this legislation entitled "Connecticut Wing Employment Protections Act" which was approved at the beginning of the 2019 legislative session. The act will prohibit an employer from discriminating against, disciplining, or discharging an employee who is absent from work to train for or respond to an emergency as a Civil Air Patrol member and to provide remedies for a violation of this act. Additionally, Liput worked with the Connecticut legislature to consider approving CAP vanity license plates for state vehicles.

Liput assisted the wing commander in drafting the first state budget request in excess of \$345,000.00 for consideration in 2020. Working closely with supportive legislators, Liput gained support and sponsorship for this request and is actively working with them to ensure everything possible is being done to ensure its passage. These funds would assist the wing with major infrastructure repairs to subordinate unit headquarters, the purchase of new equipment, the establishment of a state-of-the-art emergency services mission base at wing headquarters, and the purchase of a Red Bird simulator and other necessary items. Furthermore, Liput assisted the wing commander in drafting a grant request from the state for the purchase of up to three Red Bird Simulators at a cost of approximately \$90,000.00 each. Hallmark of Liput's coalition building, the state adjutant general offered his staff who are familiar with the many grants and grants process to assist the wing with this endeavor.

During his tenure, Liput achieved 100% legislative squadron membership for state house and senate. The legislative squadron members drafted quarterly legislative newsletters and distributed them to federal and state legislators. Liput sponsored and led the effort in creating new partnerships which have been adopted at the national and regional levels such as those with the National Football League's Alumni Association and Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.). Over the years, Liput worked with Mr. Tarbox to register more staff and newly elected state senators and representatives to the wing's legislative squadron. Liput planned and executed the 2019 State Legislative Day at the state capital in Hartford, in which cadets participated and presented the colors before the closing legislative session while the senior personnel visited with

our elected officials. He also created a wing handout for the legislators and has made in-roads with congressional staff which have enabled support for some squadrons within their district.

Liput also worked closely with the national director of government relations, Mr. John Swain. Liput secured Swain to speak at the 2020 Joint Northeast & Connecticut Wing Conference about government relations. Over the years, Liput developed a strong relationship with Swain and has, in the past, presented on his behalf when Swain was unavailable. In working with Liput, Swain gained a tremendous amount of faith in his abilities and trusted that he could deliver the information in a similar manner to his own while answering questions. As a result of these efforts, Liput impressed the Northeast Region Government Relations Advisor, Lt. Col. Wayne Fox, who has approached him on being his assistant at the region level.

Lastly, at the request of the national public affairs team, Liput created Wreaths Across America videos which were broadcasted on the GoCivilAirPatrol.com website. Through his many lines of effort, Liput literally rewrote the book on government relations for the Connecticut Wing and taken it to a new level not seen before. From March 2019 through January 2024, Liput later served as the New Jersey Wing Commander, earning the rank of colonel, and now serves as the Deputy Commander of Northeast Region.