



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

*Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.*

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## **Supporting Our Men and Women in the Missouri National Guard**

### **Property Tax Relief**

#### **National Guard Tuition Assistance**

This week Senate Bill 701 took another important step towards becoming law. The legislation, which changes the National Guard's tuition-assistance requirements, passed unanimously out of the House Veterans committee.

The idea for the legislation came from Bradley Neels, who had served in the Missouri National Guard. Bradley missed out on fully taking advantage of the Guard's tuition-assistance benefits when he was mobilized to serve in Kosovo. Currently the Guard requires members to remain in active-drilling status for three years after the semester that they last use the Guard's tuition-assistance



**Sen. Crowell greets National Guard members as they embark on the War on Terror in 2002.**

program. Other members of the National Guard have contacted me about similar problems with the Guard's tuition assistance policy.

My legislation removes the three-year provision and simply requires a Guard member to be in active drilling status while they are utilizing tuition assistance. This will remove much of the confusion in the Guard's current tuition-assistance program, and more importantly, will help Guard members fully utilize the tuition-assistance benefits so they can receive the education they deserve for serving their country.

### **Homestead Act**

Those who qualify can begin applying for the Homestead Preservation Tax Credit this Saturday, April 1. The tax credit was established in 2004 to protect eligible senior citizens and disabled individuals from rising property taxes.

Extreme property tax increases can be such a financial burden to home owners that it is possible that they could lose their homes. To prevent that from happening, the Homestead Preservation Act gives those who meet the criteria a credit on their real estate property taxes if those taxes increase more than 2.5 percent in a non-reassessment year or more than 5 percent in a reassessment year. The tax credit, which is for the difference exceeding the 2.5- or 5- percent increase, goes toward the following year's taxes.

#### **General Homestead Preservation Qualifications and Guidelines:**

- Age 65 or older, or 100-percent disabled (if married, at least one must be 65 or older and the other at least 60)
- Maximum federal adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$70,000 per application
- All real estate taxes must have been paid for current year and previous two years
- The property (home and up to five acres) must be owned and occupied by the tax credit applicant
- Cannot file for Missouri Property Tax Credit (MO-PTC, previously know as the "circuit breaker" program) for the same tax period

Applications will be accepted until Sept. 30 and are available from the county assessor, off the Department of Revenue's Web site at [www.dor.gov](http://www.dor.gov) or by calling 1-800-877-6881.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason

Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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