

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Representative Stephen Barrar

**FROM:** Sean Harris, Research Analyst  
Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee (R)

**DATE:** July 7, 2011

**RE:** **HR 331 Select Committee Appointment Letter**

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### *SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT*

Dear:

It is my honor to inform you of my desire to appoint you to be a member of a Pennsylvania House of Representatives Select Committee made up of eleven members.

Pursuant to House Resolution 331, the Select Committee has been tasked with conducting a study of the future use of Soldiers' Grove, specifically the Medal of Honor Memorial known as "The Tides of War." The Select Committee will conduct its meetings and affairs on the grounds of the State Capitol and has authorization to conduct hearings and take testimony. I have enclosed a copy of HR 331 for your review.

HR 331 also requires the Select Committee to report its findings and recommendations for remedial legislation or other appropriate action to the PA House of Representatives on or before November 30, 2012.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has passed this resolution to address the issue of space availability while maintaining the purpose of the Medal of Honor Memorial. The original design calls for every two feet to equal a year in time. Under this current measurement within the design, the projected date at which there will be no available space to continue the "Tide" and therefore the recognition of our Medal of Honor recipients is 2016.

It is my sincere hope that you will be part of this very important and honorable endeavor.

If you agree to accept this appointment, please contact my office as soon as is convenient for you and I will inform the Chairman of the Committee, Representative Stephen Barrar.

AUG 02 2011

STATE SENATOR  
LISA BAKER  
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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Senate of Pennsylvania

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, CHAIR  
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY,  
VICE CHAIR  
AGING & YOUTH  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES &  
ENERGY  
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

August 2, 2011

Hon. Stephen E. Barrar, Majority Chairman  
House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
18 East Wing  
P. O. Box 202160  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Barrar:

I am deeply honored by your appointment to the Select Committee authorized by House Resolution 331 to study the future use of Soldiers' Grove and the Medal of Honor Memorial.

Thank you for the privilege to serve in this capacity. I am delighted to accept this appointment.

I look forward to serving with you and so many other distinguished members of the community on this important working group, in order to determine the best way to honor past, present and future Medal of Honor recipients in the "Tides of War" Garden and beyond.

Thank you again for thinking of me for this honorable endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any additional assistance to you on this or any other issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Lisa Baker  
Senator

[717-233-7358]

[SPPT]

**SELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Honorable Stephen Barrar, Chair ✓ yes

Honorable Chris Sainato, Vice Chair ✓ yes

**Committee**

House Members

Representative Mark Gillen ✓ yes

Senate Members

✓ Senator Lisa Baker - Diane McLaw yes  
✓ Senator Tim Solobay - Pat Cusik yes

Government Officials

○ John Brenner  
Chairman  
PA State Veterans Commission

○ Major General Wesley Craig  
Adjutant General  
Department of Military & Veterans  
Affairs

✓ Sherrie Phillips - Holly Lubart yes  
Secretary  
Department of General Services

Designers and Landscapers

Stacy Levy ○

Winifred Lutz ○

Dennis Rydberg ✓ yes

7/11

Dave - Szobocsan  
Nicole Wamsley

## SELECT COMMITTEE STAFF

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### Executive Director

Rick O'Leary

### Research Analysts

Harry ~~Booker~~ Bucher

Sean Harris

### Administrative Assistant

Lu Ann Fahndrich

### Interns

Hannah Binder

Nick Horn

to provide for the necessary enhancements to allow for the continued use of this hallowed ground; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the select committee be composed of 11 members which shall include the chairman and minority chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives, [three members designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives] [two members designated by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives], two members designated by the chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives, [two members designated by the minority chairman] of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives; and be it further

→ 1. Sen. Baker  
2. Dennis Rydberg

RESOLVED, That each select committee member may appoint a designee to represent the member if the member is unable to participate in or attend a committee function; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives serve as chairman of the select committee and the minority Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives serve as the vice chairman of the select committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the chairman of the select committee use staff of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives for administration purposes for the select committee; be it further

RESOLVED, That the select committee meet on the grounds of the State Capitol Complex, at times that best fit the needs and conveniences of the committee members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the select committee hold hearings, take

## Lu Ann Fahndrich - HR 331 meeting

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**From:** Rick O'Leary  
**To:** Lu Ann Fahndrich; Sean Harris  
**Date:** 3/23/2012 10:00 AM  
**Subject:** HR 331 meeting

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Please remind me...we want Aaron Schenck in the Governor's office to get an invite to this meeting...so the governor's office can be directly in the loop.

Rick O'Leary  
Executive Director (R)  
House VA&EP Committee  
787-1534

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**Lu Ann Fahndrich - RE: Soldiers Grove Select Committee**

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**From:** Rick O'Leary  
**To:** Dennis Rydberg  
**Date:** 2/16/2012 12:34 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Soldiers Grove Select Committee  
**CC:** Jenn Tyler; Sean Harris

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Not a problem Dennis...we would do such meeting no later that April 10th....Ch. Barrar wants to do it soon..BUT...he would also like the first meeting to have a "walk though" of the site for all the members....and would like the ground to not be snow covered...and possibly a bit warmer than now....so.....late March...very early April. We will be in touch...and will work with everybody's schedules. Thanks Dennis.

Rick O'Leary  
Executive Director (R)  
House VA&EP Committee  
787-1534

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>>> "Rydberg, Dennis" <drydberg@pa.gov> 2/16/2012 12:13 PM >>>  
February 16, 2012

Hi Rick,

Thanks for the update. Hopefully, the first meeting will be no later than the third week in April since I will be on vacation (England) from Saturday, April 21st through late in the evening on Tuesday, May 8th and will not be reachable during that time-frame. I will also be away from June 7th through the 12th to attend my niece's graduation in another state. Although I can be reached during this trip, I will not have the ability to participate in a conference call, etc. There are also a few days each month when I am not available due to meetings/events at the Governor's Residence that I must chair or attend. Please keep me posted.

By the way, here's some more contact information for me:

Personal Cell: [REDACTED]  
Home E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

Thanks again and have a great afternoon,

Dennis

Dennis J. Rydberg, FAPLD

PA Governor's Residence  
2035 N. Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

717-787-1192

drydberg@pa.gov

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From: Rick O'Leary [Roleary@pahousegop.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:46 AM  
To: WINIFRED A. LUTZ  
Cc: Stacy Levy; Samantha Brown  
Subject: Re: Soldiers Grove Select Committee

Thank you Winifred and Stacy for agreeing to participate, and for your valuable input on this matter. I will soon bring forth to you a couple of dates to choose from for our meeting in Harrisburg...which I expect would be in the latter part of March..early April at the latest. I will be in touch. Take care.

Rick O'Leary  
Executive Director (R)  
House VA&EP Committee  
787-1534

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>>> "WINIFRED A. LUTZ" <wlutz@temple.edu> 2/16/2012 9:37 AM >>>  
Dear Rick O'Leary,

Stacy Levy and I had a chance to talk and we agree that we could both come together to one meeting of your committee gratis, as part of our commitment to the memorial .

When we first designed the project, we were fully aware that the memorial would need to be a living memorial and would need to accommodate future recipients of the Medal of Honor. We designed a method for adding the heros' names and stories when they received the Medal in the years beyond the completion of the memorial. In fact we have already added an appropriately placed arc for Somalia which honors Randall D. Shughart's act of courage, several years after the project's completion.

We would present to the committee the provisions in our original design proposal that was accepted by the Pennsylvania GSA. This design accounts for the need to continue the arcs and shows the method for how it can be accomplished in such a way that honors the heros and also keeps the memorial system intact. There should be a copy of this original design proposal somewhere in the State Capitol records on the Memorial because we did provide one at the time.

Please let us know possible dates for the meeting.

Thank you,

Winifred Lutz & Stacy Levy

On Tue, Feb 7, 2012 at 2:50 PM, Rick O'Leary  
<Roleary@pahousegop.com<mailto:Roleary@pahousegop.com>> wrote:  
Hi Winifred and Stacy.....I appreciate your getting back with me on this important endeavor. I want to first apologize, we thought that all of the appointment letters were received, but unfortunately there was a mix up. Again, I apologize.



Enclosed are 3 documents which should shine some light on the mission of the select committee. We plan to call our first meeting in March, for now though, we want to take a head count on the actual participants on this select committee.....and see if you would be available to come up to Harrisburg for this first meeting...with subsequent meetings probably being conducted via conference call...and possibly a final meeting up here at the state capital. Are both of you willing to participate as a appointees of this select committee ? Please let me know, and feel free to call me if you wish to discuss this further. I look forward to meeting and talking with you. Thanks for your considerations.

Rick O'Leary  
Executive Director (R)  
House VA&EP Committee  
787-1534

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>>> "WINIFRED A. LUTZ" <wlutz@temple.edu<mailto:wlutz@temple.edu>> 2/6/2012 11:21 AM >>>  
Rick O'Leary,

Samantha Brown recommended that I write to you if I had any questions regarding serving on the Soldier's Grove Select Committee. When Samantha wrote to me, I had never received the original letter, which was supposed to have been sent to me last August. She has subsequently e-mailed me a digital copy.

I am unable to agree to participate without any knowledge of what participation involves or what the actual purpose of the committee is (The letter is very unclear about that.). I would appreciate it if you would tell me.

I am copying this to Stacy Levy, with whom I collaborated to do the Medal of Honor Memorial. We have both been asked, but without being informed that each other had been contacted. This wasted some time because we had to check with each other to be sure we both had the same information. Thus, when you reply with answers to my questions above, it would be helpful to us if you would also copy Stacy Levy. We are both very busy on projects and both live more than an hour's drive from Harrisburg and so each of us needs to know more about the nature of the commitment being requested.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Winifred Lutz  
wlutz@temple.edu<mailto:wlutz@temple.edu>  
215-659-1009<tel:215-659-1009>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brown, Samantha <sbrown@pabmc.net<mailto:sbrown@pabmc.net>>  
Date: Thu, Feb 2, 2012 at 12:16 PM  
Subject: Soldiers Grove Select Committee, Rep. Steve Barrar  
To: "Winifred.lutz@temple.edu<mailto:Winifred.lutz@temple.edu>"  
<Winifred.lutz@temple.edu<mailto:Winifred.lutz@temple.edu>>

Winifred Lutz,

My name is Samantha Brown, I am the Legislative Fellow under PA State Representative Steve Barrar for the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. You should have received an appointment letter from Rep. Steve Barrar concerning the future of Soldiers' Grove and the use of the Medal of Honor Memorial Garden. Rep. Barrar is inquiring about your willingness to participate so we can conduct our first

committee meeting sometime in March. You can respond to me and if you have any further questions please contact the Executive Director of Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rick O'Leary.

Rick O'Leary

Executive Director

Veteran's Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee (R)

House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

(717)787-1534<tel:(717)787-1534>

roleary@pahousegop.com<mailto:roleary@pahousegop.com>

Thank you,

Samantha Brown

BMC Legislative Fellow

House VA&EP Committee

717-783-7315<tel:717-783-7315>