

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

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MYERSTOWN, PA 17067
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ELIZABETHVILLE OFFICE:
27 SOUTH MARKET STREET
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PHONE: (717) 362-9051



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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COMMITTEE

To: All Members of the House of Representatives
From: Representative Peter J. Zug *PJZ*
Date: January 29, 1997
Re: Proposed Legislation

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation which will amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) by requiring flags to be placed on veterans' graves from Memorial Day until Veterans Day. Currently, these flags are only required to be placed until the Fourth of July. As well, this legislation will require that these flags be replaced if damaged or weathered.

This legislation will also update the definition of a veteran in reference to flags and markers, bringing the definition into conformity with federal law.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Jodi at 7-2686 or via PROFS at JMARSICO.

Thank you.





PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 20, 1997

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-
- TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
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The Honorable Michael K. Hanna
29 Bellefonte Avenue
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Dear Representative Hanna:

In reference to your recent letter concerning House Bill 1560, I would like to inform you that this legislation has been referred to the House Local Government Committee. As well, I would like to point out that the State Veterans Commission and the State War Veterans Council have both agreed to work with the committee to ensure that the legislation does not financially burden the county veterans affairs offices. In short, I would agree that there needs to be some further consensus on the definition of a "veteran," thus, I will continue to work with the pertinent interested parties on this important matter.

In terms of flags on Gold Star Mothers' graves, the State Veterans Commission, who initiated the language for my bill, is also examining the feasibility of establishing a flag and grave marker for this particular group. This measure was not covered in my bill, but I would be receptive to the idea per the State Veterans Commission recommendation on this matter.

If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Very Truly Yours,

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER
102nd Legislative District

PJZ/jm



MICHAEL K. HANNA, MEMBER

29 BELLEFONTE AVENUE
LOCK HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA 17745
PHONE: (717) 748-5480
TOLL-FREE: 1 (800) 845-7846

508 BENNER PIKE
SUITE 5

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
TIMBER
FIREFIGHTERS
IRISH

October 7, 1997

Honorable Pete Zug
PA House of Representatives
163A East Wing
House Box 202020
Harrisburg PA 17120-2020

OCT 08 1997

Dear Representative Zug:

Enclosed is a copy of the correspondence from our local Board of Commissioners raising concerns with the financial burden that will be placed on counties by your House Bill 1560. I would appreciate if you could assist me in responding to the commissioners concern.

I also have a constituent that is interested in seeing flags placed on Gold Star Mothers Graves. I wasn't sure if it was the intent of your legislation to include them in its provisions.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Mike".

Mike Hanna

76th District
State Representative

MKH/mkr

Enclosure

cc: Centre County Commissioners
Mac Kunes

RECEIVED SEP 29 1997

County of Centre



Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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KEITH BIERLY

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823 - 1488
Telephone (814)-355-6700
FAX (814) 355-6980
TDD (814) 355-6768

DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DAVID A. LANE
DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
DENISE L. ELBELL
SOLICITOR
JAMES M. RAYBACK

September 22, 1997

Honorable Mike Hanna
Capitol Building
Room 102B
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Hanna:

We are writing to you with regard to our concerns about House Bill 1560. This Bill, as written, will create three new entitlement classes for benefits under the County Code of Pennsylvania. The legislation creating these new entitlement groups does not create any funding sources from the Commonwealth to assist us in paying either the direct costs of this program or to assist us with the administrative overhead.

Centre County has approximately 12,000 residents who are veterans of whom approximately 70 percent are potentially eligible under the current law. If House Bill 1560 is passed, as written, the County will have to increase its funding of this program by at least 30 percent to cover just the Peace Time veterans; if Reservists and National Guardsman are included, the increase in funding could be substantial. It should also be noted that by Federal regulations, Reservists and Guardsman are not considered to be veterans and are not eligible for most Federal programs unless they have had active service.

We are concerned that the passing of this Bill, as written, and its creation of additional unfunded mandates would put further stress on our already strained budget. Not only would this legislation force us to increase the number of flags we purchase each year, but the County would also have to bear the expense of expanded administrative costs and staffing.

- continued -

Honorable Mike Hanna
September 22, 1997
Page 2

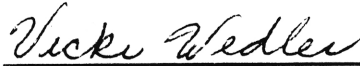
Section 1922 (b.1) might be reasonable in the counties in the southern section of the Commonwealth but in Centre County's northern areas we frequently have severe inclement weather by Veterans Day. By restricting Cemetary Associations in this way, the legislation puts increased burdens on them which further complicates their already difficult job.

Our concerns also revolve around Section 1922 (d). We wonder if this section is necessary in light of a system that primarily depends on volunteers. In addition, it is unclear as to why the County is to be notified. The legislation does not clearly explain what our responsibilities are with regard to these notifications.

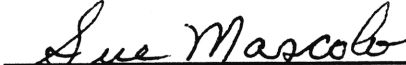
Any assistance you can provide in prevcnting yet another unfunded mandate would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

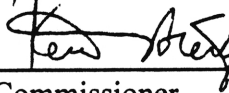
CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Vicki Wedler, Chairman



Sue Mascolo, Vice Chairman



Keith Bierly, Commissioner

cc: Stanley Adams, Director, Veterans Affairs
File

/bb