

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
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112 WEST MAIN AVENUE  
MYERSTOWN, PA 17067  
PHONE: (717) 866-9144

ELIZABETHVILLE OFFICE:  
27 SOUTH MARKET STREET  
ELIZABETHVILLE, PA 17023  
PHONE: (717) 362-9051



*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

June 25, 1996

COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON RAILROADS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY  
FINANCE

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Representative Peter J. Zug *PJZ*  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Legislation

I plan to introduce legislation which would create an honor guard burial detail at the Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

A yearly \$40,000 line item will be appropriated to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Department, through the Adjutant General, will contract with authorized veterans organizations to serve as an honor guard with a per diem of \$150 a day per veterans organization. As well, these veterans organizations (ie....American Legion, VFW, etc.) must have liability insurance so that the Commonwealth is not held liable in any way.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Jodi at 7-2686 or via PROFS @ JMARSICO.

Lynch - 127  
George - 80  
Egolf - 109 ~~106~~  
Nailor - 106  
Belardi - 27  
Nyce - 147

Markosek - 120  
Janolin - 43  
Lucyk - 207  
Fairchild - 55



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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

September 25, 1996

COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION  
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DEVELOPMENT  
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MAJORITY POLICY  
FINANCE

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

Mr. Thomas Reid  
3649 North Third Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Mr. Reid:

I would first like to thank you for writing to my office and showing your support for my legislation. It was indeed a pleasure to hear from you.

In terms of using National Guard troops, as you had suggested, this approach was examined in the early stages of drafting my legislation. I initially considered the use of these troops, but due to various mission changes within the Commonwealth's National Guard as well as all other states, their use could not feasibly be attained.

Due to recent directives from the U.S. Army Command, the use of Army National Guard troops for various state and local programs has been somewhat scaled back.

As well, this burial detail's purpose is to honor all veterans who will be buried at this National Cemetery. Thus, I felt that it would be appropriate for their veteran comrades, via various veterans organizations, to be the most appropriate group to bestow this one last honor on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Once again, thank you for writing my office and sharing your concerns. Your insight is very much appreciated. If you should have any further question on this or any other state-related matter, please feel free to contact my office.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P. Zug".

PETER J. ZUG  
State Representative  
102<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

PJZ/jm



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PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

September 13, 1996

COMMITTEES

TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON RAILROADS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY  
FINANCE

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

TO: Rick O'Leary

FROM: Rep. Peter J. Zug

SUBJECT: Honor Guard Burial Detail Legislation

Please prepare a response to the attached letter.

Thank you.



SEP 05 1996

01 Sept 1996

Peter Zug  
R - Lebanon  
To Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
State House of Representatives  
Harrisburg Pennsylvania 17108

Representative Zug:

I pray that your bill gets  
out of committee and out on  
to both floor of the Legislature.

But if I may suggest to  
expand or amend your bill  
to in some way included  
the use of ANS or NS for  
burial detail & have the persons  
time credited towards dull time.  
if you like the idea I know  
you and your staff can work  
out the mechanics.

With great respect I close

Sincerely

Phonny L. Lutz  
Master Sergeant USMA (Ret)

Thomas and Lena Reid  
3649 N. 3d St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

F. W. FUHRMAN POST 23  
718 Chestnut Street



Lebanon, Pa.

17042

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

**FIRING SQUAD**

HONORABLE PETER ZUG  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HARRISBURG, PA

JANUARY 24, 1997

DEAR PETE;

WE ARE WRITING TO YOU TO VOICE THE SUPPORT OF VFW POST 23 FIRING SQUAD FOR HOUSE BILL NUMBER 2827. WE FEEL THIS LEGISLATION IS NEEDED TO GIVE ALL VETERANS THE HONOR THEY SO DESERVE.

OUR POST FIRING SQUAD PERFORMS ABOUT 90% OF ALL MILITARY HONORS BESTOWED UPON OUR VETERANS AT FORT INDIANTOWN GAP MEMORIAL CEMETERY.

THIS BILL HOPEFULLY WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER POSTS TO TAKE PART IN THIS NOBLE CAUSE. OUR RANKS ARE GETTING THIN AND THE MEN ARE GETTING OLDER AND YOUR BILL WILL TAKE SOME OF THE BURDEN FROM OUR SQUAD.

WE APPRECIATE ALL THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN THE VETERANS OF PENNSYLVANIA IN THE PAST AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

SINCERELY;

R. A. BLEISTINE, SECRETARY  
VFW POST 23 FIRING SQUAD

**PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER**

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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**COMMITTEES**

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TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON RAILROADS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY  
FINANCE

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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Representative Peter J. Zug  
**DATE:** February 3, 1997  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Legislation

I plan to introduce legislation that will amend Title 75 of the Consolidated Statutes to require operators of a vehicle upon a highway to display headlights at all times when the vehicle's windshield wiper system is in operation.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Jodi at 7-2686 or via PROFS at JMARSICO.



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING  
NORTHEASTERN VETERANS' CENTER  
SCRANTON, PA  
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1997 - 8:00 A.M.**

The State Veterans' Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Hastings. The meeting was opened by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and an invocation by Commander Leichte, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Department of Pennsylvania.

The following members of the Commission were present: MG James W. MacVay, The Adjutant General, Ex-Officio member; John L. Patten, Executive Secretary; Paul Hastings, Chairman, Member-at-Large; Lamar Golden, Vice-Chairman, Member-at-Large; Harold Gennaria, Member-at-Large; Clare Blakeslee, Commander, The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania; Earl Roberts, Commander, AMVETS, Department of Pennsylvania; Henry Bloomberg, President, Blinded Veterans Association of Pennsylvania; Joseph Donsky, Commander, Jewish War Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania; David Pavey, Commandant, Marine Corps League, Department of Pennsylvania; Murray Lewis, Commander Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of Pennsylvania; Charles McHugh, President, Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs; Howard Adler, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Pennsylvania; John Ogosaly, designee for Commander, Disabled American Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania; Stanley Reinhard, Adjutant, The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania; John Neeves, Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Pennsylvania; Tom McDowell, Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania; Joseph Leichte, Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Department of Pennsylvania; Ethel Davis, designee for Commander, Veterans of World War I, Department of Pennsylvania.

The following members of the State Veterans' Commission were absent: Barbara Bacon, Member-at-Large; Donald McMaster, Catholic War Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania; Jeffery White, Commander, Vietnam Veterans of America, Department of Pennsylvania; Vince Radatti, Commander, Italian American War Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania.

Others present were: Edward Rodwell, County Director/Berks County; Harvey Coleman, The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania; Neil Appleby, Blinded Veterans Association of Pennsylvania; Ron Faust, Director, GVOAC/Wyoming; Rick O'Leary, Representative Hershey's Office; Mrs. Donsky; Larry Babitts, U.S. Department of Labor; Mrs. Rutherford; Mrs. Neeves; Mrs. Gennaria; Mrs. Leichte; Mrs. Hastings; Jack Davis; Gary Reph, AMVETS, Department of Pennsylvania; Tom Kaiser, The American Legion, Department of New York; Vincent Fiola, Al Long, Jack Gunn, Joe Salvo, Andy Sarnak, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Pennsylvania; Francis Tyson, Retired Officers Association; James Distler, County Director/Elk County; Metro Lynn, Disabled American Veterans, Department of Pennsylvania; William Smith, Scranton Job Center; Ellis Demesquitas; Neal Goodman,

Representative Lucyk's Office; Wayne Faith; Richard Brill, Commandant, Carl Weinschenk, Business Manager, Tom Bufano, Northeastern Veterans Center; Al Rutherford, Legislative Liaison, George Almasi, Director of Veterans' Homes, Jack Keith, Deputy Director, Dominic DiFrancesco, Roysetta Bruner, Barbara Frantz, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Commandant Brill welcomed everyone to the Northeastern Veterans' Center and thanked all the veterans' organizations for their support of the home and its programs and events.

General MacVay extended a special thanks to the commanders who were seated on the Commission over the past year for serving the country and the veterans of the Commonwealth. He will be attending the homes' employee recognition dinners and will also be attending the upcoming veterans' service organizations annual conventions.

#### MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Golden made a motion and it was seconded by Commander Adler to accept the minutes of the State Veterans' Commission held on May 2, 1997.

Mr. Patten presented a construction update. The Southwestern Veterans' Center will officially be dedicated on July 14, 1997, at 10:30 a.m., with a luncheon following the ceremony. The Governor will be present. It is anticipated that the first veteran will be admitted by the end of July.

There has been \$1.5 million inserted in the budget for the Southeastern Veterans' Center. This will cover the cost of the boiler plant project. We are working diligently to craft the RFP to get the boiler plant constructed as soon as possible.

Monies have also been placed in the budget for the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home to install a security system and new roads.

We are looking at creating innovative projects at the PA Soldiers' & Sailors' Home to enhance resident therapy.

A new oxygen system is being installed at the Northeastern Veterans' Center.

\* Mr. Rutherford distributed a legislative handout and asked the Commission to pay close attention to House Bill 1560 which amends the county code to recognize additional organizations as veterans for the purpose of placing grave markers on the burial site. Also, House Bill 1561 should be reviewed since it concerns the establishment of an Honor Guard at Indiantown Gap Cemetery. The Adjutant General is supportive of both the aforementioned bills.

Representative Hershey will introduce the bill authorizing the promotion of the DAG-VA to the grade of General Officer on June 9, 1997. Mr. Reinhard asked the Commission members to contact their representatives to approve this bill. It has been stated that Representatives Tigue and Michlovic are not supportive of this bill.



Mr. Reinhard advised that the War Veterans' Council will be collecting funds from the various veterans' organizations to sponsor the luncheon for the dedication of the Southwestern Veterans' Home. The approximate cost of the luncheon will be \$3000. Please send your donations to Stanley Reinhard made payable to the PA War Veterans' Council.

The graduation ceremonies for Scotland School for Veterans' Children will be held on June 7, 1997. Mary Ann Nobers has been appointed to the SSVC Board of Trustees. There is still one vacancy remaining on the Board. Mr. Jim Lowe has been appointed as the Home Life Director. We are still waiting approval from the Governors' Office to create a Deputy Superintendent position. The dietary project is moving along. It is anticipated that it will be completed by the beginning of the Fall term.

Mr. Patten advised that to date there are 24 counties represented at Scotland School. It appears that in the upcoming school year a wider geographic representation exist.

Mr. Patten presented a Memorial update. Thus far, there is \$484,524 in the memorial fund. The Eva Hawkins' estate is worth approximately \$542,000, which will place us at \$1.2 million in the fund. The architect has been directed to prepare the final blue prints. This should take approximately 6 months. There was a total of \$58,500 collected at the meeting from donations presented from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans, AMVETS and various other donors.

Commander Lewis presented to Commandant Brill two George Skyeck prints for display at the Northeastern Veterans Center.

Mr. Tom Kaiser made a presentation regarding the designation of U.S. Interstate 80 as POW/MIA Memorial Highway. He asked that the veterans' organizations participate by making a donation to purchase a sign which will be displayed along the highway. Commander Lewis made a motion that this Commission support this project. Mr. Reinhard pointed out that this must be discussed with PennDOT to ensure that it would not interfere with their rules and regulations.

#### MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Golden made a motion and it was seconded by Commander to table the motion to support this project until further research can be conducted with PennDOT.

#### MOTION CARRIED

The May report for the Veterans' Emergency Assistance Program was reviewed. Commander Blakeslee made a motion and it was seconded by Commandant Pavey to accept the report as presented.

#### MOTION CARRIED

The May reports for the Blind and Paralyzed Veterans' Programs were reviewed. Mr. Gennaria made a motion and it was seconded by Commander Blakeslee to accept the report as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

The May report for the Real Estate Tax Exemption Program was reviewed. Mr. Golden made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. McHugh to accept the report as presented with 67 approvals (60 new cases/7 review cases) and 4 denials (1 review case/3 new cases).

**MOTION CARRIED**

The May report for the Educational Gratuity Program was reviewed. Mr. Gennaria made a motion and it was seconded by Commander Blakeslee to accept the report as presented with the following approvals:

William Dawson  
110 Cool Spring Rd.  
McKeesport, PA 15131

Allison Boyle  
1677 Lisa Lane  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Carla Numeroff  
1116 N. 14th St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17103

Jenny Cresta  
251 Plaza Drive  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

Matthew Orem  
305 Worthington Dr.  
Exton, PA 19341

Stephanie L. Johnson  
645 Graham St.  
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

**MOTION CARRIED**

The May report for the State Veterans' Homes was reviewed. Commander Roberts made a motion and it was seconded by Commander Leichte to accept the report as presented.

Mr. Reinhard thanked Mr. Patten for his participation in the Memorial Day service which was held at Indiantown Gap National Ceremony.

Chairman Hastings announced the next meeting of the State Veterans' Commission meeting on 1 August, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Headquarters, 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, Chairman Hastings adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

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John L. Patten  
Executive Secretary  
PA State Veterans' Commission



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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

October 21, 1997

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS  
TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON RAILROADS  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ON HOUSING  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
MAJORITY POLICY

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

The Honorable John Barley  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
245 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Chairman Barley:

Pursuant to our conversation on the House Floor today, I would appreciate it if you would run House Bill 1561 as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pete".

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER  
102nd Legislative District

PJZ/jm



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TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

## Zug's Plan for Burial Detail at the Gap Approved

HARRISBURG - Rep. Peter Zug (R-Lebanon) introduced the legislation which would pay recognized veterans organizations to provide burial details at the National Cemetery located at Fort Indiantown Gap. This proposal was approved Tuesday by the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

"This is an honor long overdue to Pennsylvania's veterans," said Zug. "I believe we can provide this service to veterans with minimal cost to taxpayers."

Zug's proposal would authorize \$50,000 in funding for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to pay \$150 per burial day to a veterans organization to provide a burial detail.

There are 260 burial days at the Gap every year, amounting to \$39,000. The remaining \$11,000 would be used to pay for administrative costs of the program.

The State War Veterans Council, the State Veterans Commission and the Lebanon V.F.W., who conduct most of the honor guards today, support Zug's legislation,

With the Pennsylvania War Veterans Memorial to be built at the National Cemetery in the coming year and Honor Details serving at the ceremony, we will truly have a lasting tribute to our veterans.



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