

PETER J. ZUG, MEMBER

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEES

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COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
MAJORITY POLICY
FINANCE

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

December 20, 2000

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Peter J. Zug *PJZ*

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation on HB 2739

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation that would allow school districts to grant World War II veterans, who did not graduate from high school due to wartime service, an honorary high school diploma.

Several other states have legislatively adopted this "operation recognition" program. And many veterans' organizations across Pennsylvania have requested that this provision be added to the Commonwealth's Military Affairs Code.

This legislative proposal is identical to my HB 2518 legislative proposal, which was recommitted to the House Appropriations Committee last June. Due to the fact that HB 2518 amends the Public School Code, this legislation has attracted numerous amendments which are germane to the Public School Code but not to the intent of my legislation. Therefore, rather than have my legislation bogged down with problematic amendments, this new piece of legislation will amend Title 51 (Military Affairs).

If you should like to become a cosponsor of this legislation, please contact my office at 7-2686 or via GroupWise at FERNST. Thank you.



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THOMAS A. MICHLOVIC, MEMBER
519 PENN AVENUE
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COMMITTEES

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

*Filed to
D.O. 9/13/01*

September 10, 2001

SUBJECT: WWII VETERANS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

TO: All House and Senate Members

FROM: Representative Tom Michlovic (D) Chairman *T.A.M.*
Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

As you know, we recently enacted "Operation Recognition", Act 73 of 2001, which provides for high school diplomas for WWII veterans. I recently sent the attached letter to my local School Board Members and Superintendents urging them to pass the PA School Boards Association Policy Guidelines.

To facilitate the intent of this law, I ask you to contact your school superintendents and school board members and urge them to attempt to pass these guidelines and contact those individuals who qualify either directly or through the media.

Please feel free to contact my office if you need any further information on this issue.

(OVER)

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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

September 10, 2001

SUBJECT: WWII VETERANS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

TO: School Superintendents & School Board Members
35th Legislative District

FROM: Representative Tom Michlovic **T.A.M.**

In 1999 a book authored by TV anchor Tom Brokaw titled The Greatest Generation honored the accomplishments and sacrifices of American servicemen who served during WWII. It is a historical fact that many veterans who were called and served during the war never had the opportunity to complete their high school education.

In recognition of the sacrifices and accomplishments of WWII veterans, the Pennsylvania legislature recently enacted "Operation Recognition" embodied in Act 73 of 2001. Act 73 provides the authority for school districts to confer a high school diploma to WWII veterans who did not graduate because of their military service. Under this law, school districts are authorized to grant high school diplomas to any honorably discharged veteran who served in the United States military during WWII between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. To be eligible to have a high school diploma conferred, the veteran must have been a member of a high school class who would have graduated from that district or a preceding one during the years 1941 through 1950 but failed to graduate due to intervening military service.

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) has recently published policy guidelines reflective of Act 73. As the Democratic Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness and Veterans Affairs Committee, I urge you to adopt the PSBA guidelines and contact those individuals who qualify either directly or through the media.

As the new millennium and century begins, the average age of WWII veterans is over 75. Granting a diploma to those who did not have the opportunity to graduate is a way to honor and recognize the stellar accomplishments of this passing generation.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Dear Sir,

8-15-2001

Yesterday I recieved my diploma from Overbrook High School, in Philadelphia, PA. I can't thank you enough for submitting the bill and all your efforts that made this possible. I left high school to join the Navy on May 28, 1941. The threat of war was in the air, the National had been activated and the country was gearing up for trouble, it was only a matter of time.

When I opened the envelope with the diploma in it I was overcome with emotion. You have done a great service to all the veterans who left school to serve their country.

Thank you again

Edward Lazarian

Edward Lazarian
P.O. Box 553
West Dennis, MA 02670-0553



HARRISBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

August 21, 2002

Representative Peter J. Zug
150A Capitol East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Operation Recognition

Dear Representative Zug:

Please find enclosed your own personal copy of the video tape that was taken by the district's technology department during the Operation Recognition graduation ceremony held at Harrisburg High School on May 23, 2002. Because of the low lighting in the auditorium for the program, the processional and recessional are dark on the tape. I have also enclosed a copy of the general invitation and the program for the evening.

Once again, thank you for being a participant in a most memorable event.

Sincerely,

Sue Kinney
Administrative Assistant to the
Superintendent/Legal Services

Enclosures