

**ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER**

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
HOUSE BOX 202020  
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020  
PHONE: (717) 783-1593  
FAX: (717) 787-1243

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
POST OFFICE BOX 759  
18 WEST MAIN STREET  
NEW BLOOMFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 17068  
PHONE: (717) 582-8119  
FAX: (717) 582-8979



*House of Representatives*  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**HARRISBURG**

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**APPOINTMENTS:**

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HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE  
PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' MEMORIAL COMMISSION

February 13, 2003

TO: All House Members  
FROM: Rep. Allan Egolf *AE*  
SUBJECT: Cosponsorship – National Flag Code

You may not be aware that the Public School Code currently requires schools to hand out illustrated copies of the National Flag Code pamphlet to every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. Also, but unrelated, Act 44 of 1955 established May 1<sup>st</sup> each year as "Loyalty Day".

I will soon introduce legislation that amends section 1511 of the Public School Code to require that a class period on or about May 1<sup>st</sup> (Loyalty Day) of each year be used to distribute, study and discuss the National Flag Code and the observance and significance of Loyalty Day.

There have been complaints by schools that they do not know where to obtain the illustrated copy of the National Flag Code pamphlet. As well, veterans' groups contend that these flag pamphlets, which are important in understanding the significance of the symbol that represents the United States, are not being distributed as required by law. To provide assistance with this and remove an unfunded mandate on schools, my legislation states that members of the General Assembly will provide schools with illustrated copies of the National Flag Code, upon request.

This legislation should accomplish three goals: (1) ensure current law (requiring each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student be provided a copy of the Flag Code) is being complied with, (2) engender a renewed interest in Loyalty Day, and (3) give veterans' groups an opportunity to get involved in school activities and to talk to students about their experiences and the many sacrifices that our armed forces personnel endured to preserve the freedoms and ideals which are symbolized in our National Flag. This has been a goal of most statewide veterans' service organizations for many years. The Pennsylvania War Council and the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission both voted unanimously to support this legislation.

Please join me in cosponsoring this important and timely legislation by contacting Teri Root by groupwise or by e-mail at [troot@pahousegop.com](mailto:troot@pahousegop.com) or call 3-1593.

AE/tcr

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*House of Representatives*  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**HARRISBURG**

April 15, 2003

**COMMITTEES**

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
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AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS  
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Rep. Jess M. Stairs, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
Room 43-A, East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman <sup>Jess</sup> Stairs:

I respectfully request your cooperation in calling a vote on House Bill 670 at your next committee meeting. As you are aware, current law requires that all eighth grade students in the Commonwealth receive a copy of the United States Flag Code. The veteran community has brought to my attention the fact that this practice is being overlooked. House Bill 670, which I am proud to sponsor, will require an annual period of instruction to be held on Loyalty Day or the Monday directly following. At this time of instruction, pamphlets, now provided by state legislative offices, will be distributed to students and discussions will be held with veteran groups in order to discuss the American Flag as well as patriotism.

House Bill 670 will offer a better solution to the distribution of the United States Flag Code as well as offer a more in depth learning experience for the eighth grade students. This legislation will alleviate an unfunded mandate by having the state legislative offices provide the pamphlets. Also, this bill ensures that this information is provided to the students each year and brings Loyalty Day back into view. In 1958, President Eisenhower established May 1 to be Loyalty Day with Public Law 85-529. His hope was to reaffirm America's patriotic spirit. House Bill 670 will offer a valuable experience for students as well as veteran groups as they interact while pamphlets are distributed. It is important for students to understand that history is not only learned from a book. Many of the soldiers that fought in World War II are still alive. It will surely be a memorable day for both the students and the veterans as veteran stories of the past are told. Please offer this opportunity to the future of Pennsylvania by voting House Bill 670 out of your committee.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> 2003, the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission voted to unanimously support House Bill 670. Incidentally on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2003, Loyalty Day, the veteran community will be holding their annual Loyalty Day ceremony at the back of the capitol. At that time, House Bill 670 and its contents will be touched upon.

Thank you in advance for your due consideration of this request. I look forward with great anticipation to your timely action on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Allan Egolf'.

Allan Egolf  
State Representative  
86<sup>th</sup> Legislative District