

Egolf's Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund Bill Sent To Governor

HARRISBURG -- Legislation sponsored by Rep. Allan Egolf (R-86) that allows funds from the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund to be used for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the grounds of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery has been approved by the General Assembly and sent to the governor.

"This memorial was completed and dedicated in October 2001," Egolf said. "It honors those who served our nation in times of war and peace."

Construction of the \$6.4 million memorial was paid for with \$4.5 million in state funds with the remainder coming from donations and sales of memorial items.

The current balance for the Memorial Trust Fund is \$383,000.

Approximately \$142,000 of the trust fund is being held by the state Department of General Services in a construction contingency fund pending the outcome of two construction cost claims.

Under Egolf's bill, the memorial commission will go out of business in 2005 and the trust fund will be placed under the permanent administration of the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission

"The care and maintenance of the memorial is the responsibility of the state," Egolf said. "The memorial trust fund, which may be supplemented by future donations, can serve as the maintenance fund for this memorial. The memorial will not be a burden to the taxpayers."

House Bill 1105 originally passed the House in May. In the Senate, it was amended to include certain funding safeguards. The House unanimously concurred with the changes and sent the bill to Gov. Ed Rendell for his signature.

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ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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July 8, 2003

Paul F. Hastings, Chairman
Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission
1631 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Dear Chairman Hastings: *Paul*

I am pleased to report that the General Assembly has passed and Governor Ed Rendell has signed legislation that allows funds from the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund to be used for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the grounds of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. As you know this memorial, which honors those who served in our nation's military in times of war and piece, was completed and dedicated in October 2001.

Under Act 8 of 2003, the memorial commission will retain oversight for this memorial until 2005, at which time the trust fund will be placed under the permanent administration of the Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission.

The care and maintenance of the memorial is the responsibility of the state. Therefore, the memorial trust fund, which may be supplemented by future private donations, can serve as the maintenance fund for this memorial.

I would like to personally thank you and the members of the State Veterans' Commission for your assistance and support of this legislation, and for all the work that this body does for the veterans' community in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Allan Egolf
Allan Egolf
State Representative
86th Legislative District

Teri Root - HB 1105 (Egolf), HR 179 (Semmel)

From: Rick O'Leary
To: Brian Preski
Date: 4/16/2003 11:28 AM
Subject: HB 1105 (Egolf), HR 179 (Semmel)
CC: Lori Locketto

Can we please slip this veterans bill in to vote on the floor during "Homeland Security Week" ?
It is a time sensitive bill with a June 30, 2003 "sunset date". If we get this the senate by early May...we honored our commitment to the State veteran's leaders...and more importantly, we wash our hands of this and put the ball in the Senates court .

As for HR 179 "Loyalty Day"..this is for the May 1st Loyalty Day program being held at the Capital by the VFW. On a side bar, If the Governor bags us...would the Speaker be interested in being the keynote speaker....good veterans exposure...PCN is covering it.

PS..things are shaping up well with the VA & EP committee hearing on May 8th in Philly..I am speaking daily with Susan Howland on the logistics. Will keep you posted.

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