

**AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE, I
WAS A KEY PARTICIPANT IN:**

VETERANS

- Increasing the monthly pension amounts for the state administered Blind and Paralyzed Veteran Pension Program from \$100 to \$150 per month.
- Passage of a state appropriation of \$2 million for the National World War II Memorial to be constructed in Washington, D.C. This is the largest contribution by any state to this day.
- Passage of two separate appropriations which provided a combined total appropriation of \$4 million for the Pennsylvania veterans memorial which is scheduled to be completed at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery by Veterans Day 2001.
- I chaired the House Resolution 30 Site Selection Committee which was tasked with finding suitable land for a veterans cemetery in western Pennsylvania. This committee, while working closely with the National Cemetery Association, was responsible for the establishment of the national cemetery of the Alleghenies which opened in 2005.
- Worked closely with our congressional delegation to secure Federal-matching funds for the construction of our sixth (6th)

State Veterans Home which is scheduled to be completed in December of 2001.

PA NATIONAL GUARD

- Increased the PA National Guards Tuition Assistance Program to 100% tuition funding for our National Guard men and women. (Tuition funding was previously two-thirds funding.)
- Enacted into law a provision which exempts certain PA National Guard pay from being considered income in regard to unemployment compensation wage earning requirements.
- Worked closely with our congressional delegation to secure Federal funding for important National Guard projects such as:
 - \$3 million for Northeast Counter drug Training Center at Ft. Indiantown Gap.
 - \$2.6 million for a New National Guard Readiness Center in New Milford, PA.
 - \$2.9 million for a New National Guard Readiness Center in Tioga County, PA.
 - \$8.5 million for upgrades to the sewer system at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

- \$90 million for the 193rd Special Operation Wing Purchase of a new EC-130-J aircraft.

FIRE/EMS

- Appropriated \$25 million for a grant program for volunteer fire and EMS departments.
- Enacted into law a College Tuition Waiver Program for the children of police officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, National Guard personnel and corrections officers that are killed in the line of duty.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Enacted legislation which established Pennsylvania as a Member of the Federal Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). In time of disaster, Pennsylvania can now share and receive vital equipment and assistance, without the hindrance of liability and cost recoupment factors.
- Amended the Commonwealth's Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act by decreasing the reporting periods for hazard materials and extremely hazardous materials to a period of five (5) days. This will further ensure that municipal governments and emergency response authorities are kept "up to date" on the presence of hazardous materials in their communities. (Awaiting final passage in Senate.)

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

As a member of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Consumer Affairs committees, here are just a few of the laws I've authored

AGRICULTURE

Act 45 of 1996 – Increases consumer safety of egg products by banning the use of certain equipment in the processing of eggs.

Act 97 of 2001 – Re-codified and updated the state's regulations affecting fertilizers by giving homeowners and farmers accurate information about the ingredients contained in both household and agricultural-strength fertilizers.

I was also a vocal supporter of legislation enabling Pennsylvania to join the Northeast Dairy Compact, a measure that was strongly supported by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and dairy groups statewide.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Act 94 of 1996 – Helped save Pennsylvania electric utilities and their customers an estimated \$1 billion by revising the way contracts are negotiated.

Act 187 of 1996 – Established Pennsylvania’s One-Call System, a statewide communications network between excavators and underground facility owners that guards against deadly explosions and gas and chemical leaks when excavating.