

GROWING GREENER - YOU DECIDE



REP. JOHN SIPTROTH URGES YOU TO VOTE

On May 17th, voters will have an opportunity to make a historic investment in Pennsylvania's environment.

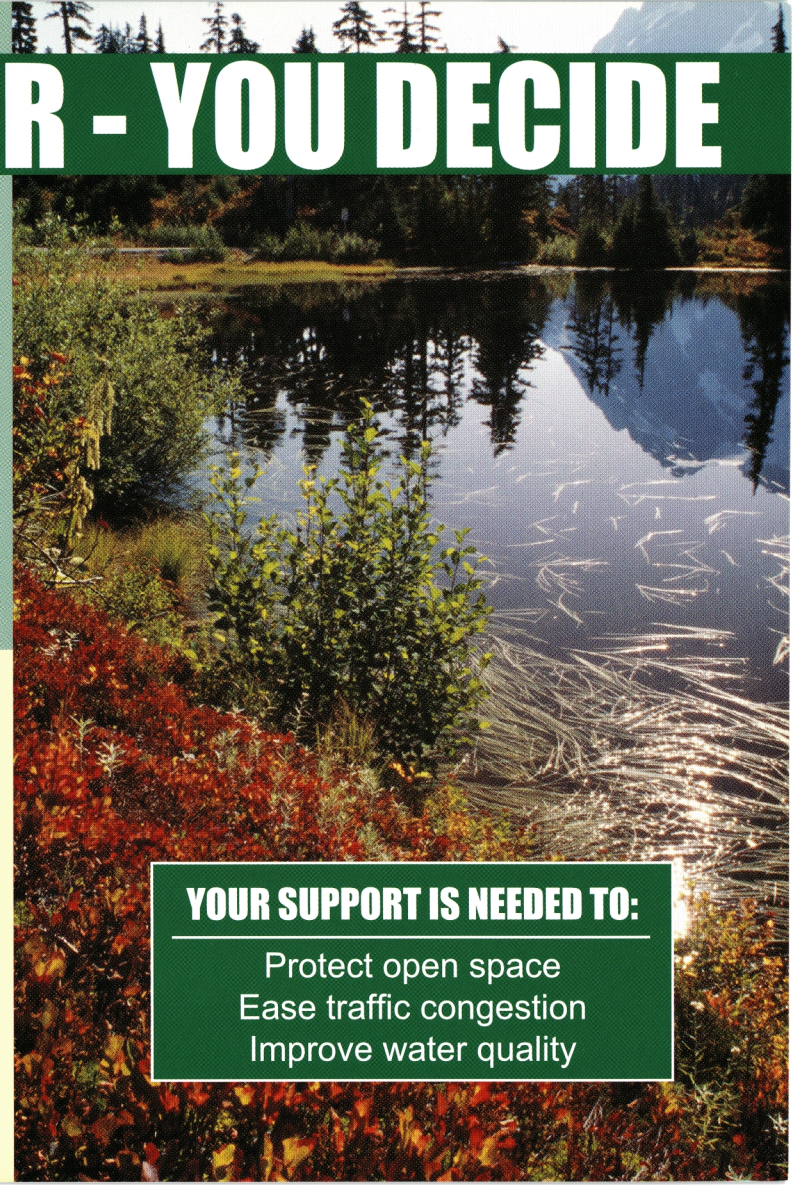
Voters will be asked to approve a \$625 million bond initiative to protect open space, clean up the environment and strengthen communities.

ON MAY 17TH, YOU GET TO DECIDE.

- Every day, Pennsylvania loses 350 acres of unprotected land to development.
- By 2025, more than 20% of the state's open space could be lost.

Rep. John Siptroth is urging voters to make their voice heard on Pennsylvania's environment.

For more information on Growing Greener, visit my Web site at:
www.pahouse.com/siptroth



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO:

- Protect open space
- Ease traffic congestion
- Improve water quality

GROWING GREENER - YOU DECIDE

REP. JOHN SIPTROTH URGES YOU TO VOTE

On May 17th, voters will be asked to invest \$625 million in Pennsylvania's environment and economy. Please make your voice heard on this critical investment in Pennsylvania's future.

All registered voters, Republicans, Democrats and Independents, can vote on the Growing Greener ballot question.

May 17th Ballot Question

Do you favor authorizing the Commonwealth to borrow up to \$625 million for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives?

THE GROWING GREENER BOND INITIATIVE WOULD INVEST IN:

Open space preservation
Smart growth planning
Hazardous waste site cleanup
Healthy rivers, lakes and streams
Community parks and recreation

Join Rep. John Siptroth in his effort to improve quality of life.



State Representative **JOHN SIPTROTH** 189TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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State Representative

John J. Siptroth

189th Legislative District

Pike County Update

June 2005

Dear Pike County Neighbor:

As your representative for the 189th Legislative District, it has been an honor and privilege to be your advocate in Harrisburg for the last 90 days. This newsletter affords me the opportunity to report to you my efforts of the past three months regarding issues of concern to all of us in Northeastern Pennsylvania, but most especially my constituents in Pike County.

Inside the newsletter, you will find articles regarding

- the progress of local transportation projects;
- ongoing environmental initiatives;
- constituent service offices in both Pike and Monroe counties; and
- legislation to improve conditions statewide.

Remember, I am in Harrisburg solely to represent the people of Pike and Monroe counties. Your concerns are my concerns. I want to hear from you.

Thanks,

John
John



Rep. Siptroth is joined by his wife, Elaine, as he is sworn into the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on March 16.

TRANSPORTATION

Pike County Road Task Force

I am an active participant in the Pike County Road Task Force, a group that meets monthly to discuss current and future transportation projects. The meetings present a forum for open dialogue on the region's most critical transportation matters, including the current condition and maintenance of Milford Road (SR 2001), Route 739 and Route 209.

Maintaining our roadways is a difficult task. The steady increase in traffic and the extremes in the weather both play a part in road deterioration.

At May's meeting I brought state Rep. Keith McCall, Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee, and Larry King, deputy secretary for planning at the state Transportation Department. After the meeting, I took Rep. McCall for a ride on SR 2001 so he could see the condition of the road for himself.

The group also discussed the Dingman's Ferry Express Bus Service. Soon the service, which accommodates commuters from Lehman and Delaware townships to New York City, will begin to use the park-and-ride site on Route 739.

On June 9 I attended a public meeting about the work that PennDOT proposes for SR 2001. The plans are to rebuild the road, widen it, add shoulders and straighten some of the more dangerous curves. I listened to the views of residents and spoke with many about the implications of the proposed construction.

Transportation Committee Assignment

From the day I was elected I petitioned the House Democratic leader for a seat on the Transportation Committee so that I could have some influence over policy and funding on transportation issues. I am pleased to announce that Harrisburg has recognized the importance of my appointment to this committee for Pike County and that I was assigned a seat on June 15.



Keep up-to-date on the latest news from Harrisburg by checking out Rep. Siptroth's Web site:

www.pahouse.com/Siptroth

REP. SIPTROTH'S PIKE COUNTY UPDATE

Marshalls Creek Congestion: A Better Future

The Marshalls Creek Bypass project, to ease traffic congestion, is located in Monroe County, but due to the mobility of our community the project is good news for everyone.

In late May, PennDOT entertained bids from two local contractors to construct the bypass. PennDOT said it expects work on Phase 1 to begin in the fall.

The bypass project will also widen a stretch of Route 209 and relieve congestion for the roadway and surrounding area considerably.

I have met with other officials to plan a strategy for treating the roads that will see increased usage during construction. I am advocating remediation and repair of local roads including Hollow Road and Hidden Lake Road.

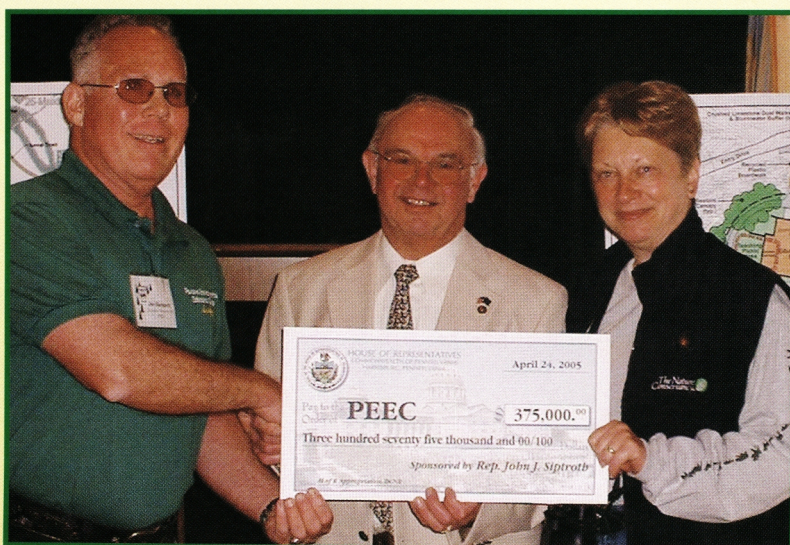
Transportation matters are key to our area because of our rapid population growth. It is my aim to consider the pending issues and approach them head-on.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Like many other homeowners, I was disappointed by the results of Act 72. But many of my colleagues and I have not given up on the objective of property tax relief. The homeowners of Pennsylvania still need it and deserve it.

I will examine any practical idea that crosses my desk. I am reviewing a plan devised by Sen. Robert Mellow to allow voters in each school district to decide in a November 2005 referendum whether they want gaming revenues to replace a portion of their school property taxes. I have spoken with Rep. Mario Scavello about a new proposal he is developing to reduce school property taxes and I am awaiting final details of the plan.

I have also been asked to join the House Bipartisan Tax Reform Caucus to engage in direct and detailed discussion on tax relief. I am dedicated to this issue and promise to keep residents of the 189th Legislative District informed about any new developments.



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Growing Greener II: Your Overwhelming Response

With the rapid population growth in our region, it has become more important than ever to ensure that our open space is protected and preserved. This was a chief issue of my platform when I was running for office. Judging by the positive response to the voter referendum in May to fund Growing Greener, it is clearly an important concern for you, as well.

When responding to the primary ballot question in May, about 65 percent of voters in Pike County approved of the state borrowing \$625 million for a variety of environmental initiatives. Statewide, over 60 percent of voters approved it. The details for using the funding are still being determined, and I am hopeful that money will go to projects across the state for preserving open space and curbing sprawl, brownfield restoration and helping the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission.

In Pike County we are blessed with a beautiful landscape and a serene environment. We are also fortunate to be experiencing industrial and commercial growth. It is essential to the residents and families of Pike County to ensure that these strengths work together with rather than against one another.

I have begun to meet with a number of conservation groups, the Bureau of Forestry and the National Park Service to discuss how best to preserve the rural nature of the county.

Pocono Environmental Education Center

In April, I was invited to speak at an Earth Day celebration at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. I was pleased to announce that the PEEC was being awarded \$375,000 to advance the center.

As many local families know, the PEEC provides a beautiful sanctuary for those who enjoy nature. In addition to providing open space for residents, students and botanists to enjoy, the center also offers programs to educate and enhance people's appreciation of the outdoors.

Visit the PEEC for a day or a few hours and experience the serenity while learning a few things about our area's natural treasures. Environmental investments like the award to advance the PEEC can provide the means to teach us how fragile and precious our natural surroundings are, and give us good reasons to find time to get outside and enjoy nature as a break from our fast-paced, high-tech world. Lehman Township also received a grant for \$200,000 to acquire 50 acres for open space and \$30,000 to develop a plan for a community park.

Rep. Siptroth (center) presents a check for \$375,000 to Jim Rienhardt, executive director/CEO, and Dr. Barbara Brummer, chairperson, of the Pocono Environmental Education Center.

REP. SIPTROTH'S PIKE COUNTY UPDATE

LEGISLATION

Since joining the legislature in March, I have co-sponsored several pieces of legislation. Along with supporting my colleagues' bills, I have introduced four pieces of my own legislation. Brief summaries of my legislation are below.

Parental Notification of Underage Drinking, H.B. 1574

An estimated 1,400 deaths a year are due to college drinking. These unfortunate deaths are avoidable. Many of these college-drinking deaths involve underage drinkers and many are repeat drinkers. Often the parents of students who are caught are never notified until multiple infractions have occurred.

My legislation would require colleges and universities to notify parents after the first incident. If parents knew their child was participating in an unsafe and illegal activity, they could do more to help stop the problem before it becomes an addiction or leads to injury or death. By enacting my legislation, we would be protecting schools, students and communities.

Penalties for Assaulting a Child, H.B. 1647

Recently, I teamed up with State Sen. Robert Mellow to introduce legisla-

tion that would increase the punishment for people convicted of sexually assaulting children. I share Sen. Mellow's outrage over a situation in Monroe County last year, when a judge was able to take the bench despite molesting a 10-year-old girl three weeks after being elected, simply because this offense was classified a misdemeanor.

My legislation would re-classify indecent assault against a child younger than 13 from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony. It would also re-classify indecent assault, in general, from a second-degree misdemeanor to a first-degree misdemeanor.

Leaving a Child Unattended in a Vehicle, H.B. 1747

I was surprised when I learned of the lenient penalties for adults who leave children unattended in a vehicle. In response, I introduced a bill to change current law that would make it a summary offense for each child left unattended in a vehicle.

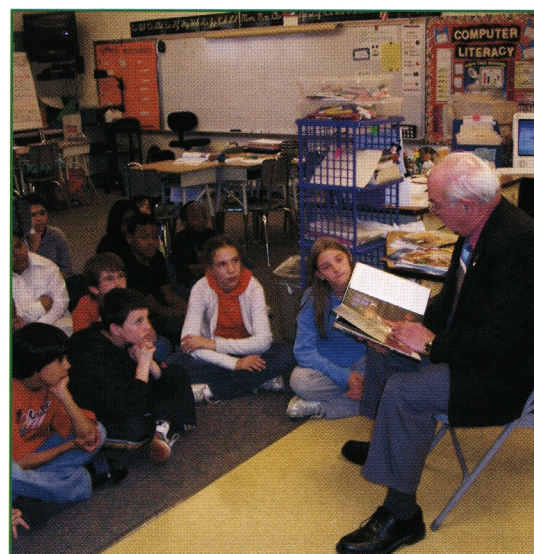
Current law allows for the same penalty regardless of the number of children left in a vehicle. Under my legislation, a person would be charged with a separate offense for each child, under the age of 6, left unattended.

Living Will on Driver's Licenses, H.B. 1748

After watching the sad events in Florida regarding the legal battle between Terri Schiavo's parents and her husband, I introduced legislation that would place a symbol on an individual's driver's license to notify medical personnel of the existence of a living will.

People already can attach other pertinent data to their licenses, for instance, that they are an organ donor. It is appropriate that living will notification be just as available.

My office can supply information on developing a living will for people who are interested.



Rep. Siptroth reads to a group of fourth-graders from Resica Elementary School.

REP. SIPTROTH WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU. *Please check the topics that matter to you, so I can keep you informed.*

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School property taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roads and traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open space & environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic growth & jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding & storm run-off | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire & emergency services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Comments: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Please complete this form and return it to my office or fill it out online at www.pahouse.com/Siptroth


Pike County Update

State Representative

John J. Siptroth

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REP. SIPTROTH'S NEW OFFICE

Recently, I held the grand opening for my constituent service office in Jay Park commercial center in Marshalls Creek, Monroe County, just off Route 209. I hope some of you were able to make it for the day of food, fun and entertainment. Many local businesses also opened their doors to residents to join in on the celebration.

I think the Marshalls Creek location is ideal because it will keep me informed of progress of the Marshalls Creek Bypass and other local road conditions.

My constituent service office can provide residents with a variety of assistance and state-related information, including birth and death certificates, voter registration, car registration and special tags, state highway maps and plans for financing higher education and public assistance. My staff can help residents apply for PACE and PACENET, and the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

Please stop by and introduce yourself, pick up information and learn how I can help you with state government issues.

Pike County Constituent Service Office

Delaware Township Building
Thursdays 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Beginning July 7

Constituent Meetings

Third Thursday of each month • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



The official ribbon cutting of Rep. Siptroth's Jay Park office with (L to R) Monroe County Commissioner Suzanne McCool; Pike County Legislative Assistant Charles McCoy; Pike County Commissioner Karl Wagner Jr.; Elaine Siptroth; Robert Phillips of the Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce and Rep. Siptroth.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

John J. Siptroth

189TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE:

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(717) 787-6492 • Fax: (717) 772-2943

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Marshalls Creek, PA 18335-1188
(570) 223-2636 • Fax: (570) 223-5694
Toll Free: (866) 604-5578

rep.siptroth@pahouse.net
www.pahouse.com/Siptroth



State Representative

JOHN J. SIPTROTH

189th Legislative District

November 2005

MILITARY REPORT

**Honoring
Pennsylvania's
Veterans
Every Day**



Dear Neighbor:


As a veteran, and as an American, I respect the sacrifices made by Pennsylvania's men and women, past and present, who have protected our nation's freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces. I understand the tremendous demands that accompany a life of service.

I support a number of ongoing efforts in the Commonwealth to assist our military personnel and their families.

Now more than ever, we need to stand behind our men and women in uniform. The freedom that we take for granted everyday is not free. Please help support our troops serving here and abroad.

Thanks,

John
John Siptroth



REP. SIPTROTH'S **MILITARY REPORT**

LEGISLATION TO BETTER SERVE VETERANS

In late July I introduced legislation that would serve both Pennsylvania's veterans and current military personnel more efficiently. My bill (H.B. 1898) would create a cabinet-level agency, the Department of Veterans Affairs, strictly to address the needs of the state's 1.3 million veterans.

Veteran's issues are growing in number and complexity, and in order to manage them in the most effective way and to be of the most use to our former service members, it would be helpful for them to have a separate agency.

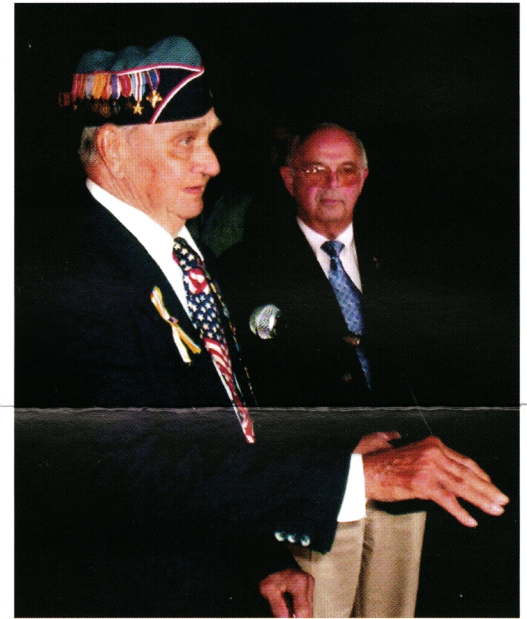
Currently, veteran's issues are handled by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. But I believe that every person brings a unique history to the table and a new agency would help to grant each veteran the attention he or she deserves.

By creating the new agency, the needs of veterans and military personnel would be better addressed.

I officially unveiled my legislation at a free concert at the Mountain Laurel Performing Arts Center in Bushkill in early August. The U.S. Military Academy Band, the Army's oldest active band, performed for concert attendees. I was joined by John Burns, the former commander of the American Legion George M. Kemp Post, and by Harvey Possinger, the most highly decorated living World War II veteran.

The event was preceded by a fair with several veterans organizations present to offer outreach.

My legislation has over 30 co-sponsors from both parties.



Rep. Siptroth listens as Harvey Possinger speaks before a free concert of the United States Military Academy Band. Mr. Possinger is the most highly decorated living World War II veteran.

Help our troops call home!

This program allows Pennsylvanians to donate pre-paid calling cards to servicemen or women deployed or hospitalized overseas. Cards can be donated to a specific serviceman or woman of your choice – such as a friend, family member or neighbor – or to a random U.S. soldier who

is serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. To find out how you can "Help Our Troops Call Home," please visit my Web site at www.pahouse.com/Siptroth and click on the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link.



SERVING ON THE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

When I joined the state House of Representatives in March and received my committee assignments, I was particularly pleased by an appointment to the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

As a former Navy air traffic controller and a volunteer firefighter, I have a special interest in issues that come before the committee. Any legislation introduced in the House dealing with the military, veterans, or emergencies and readiness is referred to this committee for discussion and debate.

This year the committee has been responsible for debating the comprehensive National Guard bill package.

REP. SIPTROTH'S **MILITARY REPORT**

ASSISTANCE FOR TODAY'S HEROES IN UNIFORM

This session the House Democratic Caucus introduced a comprehensive package of bills aimed at benefiting Pennsylvania National Guard troops who have been called to active duty, and their families.

I am sure residents across the state appreciate the sacrifices that our troops and their families make in order to secure our safety and preserve our freedom at home and abroad. Pennsylvania currently has the highest per capita number of troops serving in Iraq of any state. More than 3,200 are serving in Iraq and more than 14,000 have been deployed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Again, our troops answered the call of duty in September when many traveled to the Gulf Coast to offer security and provide aid to hurricane victims.

However, with the tremendous number of deployments comes another staggering number: casualties. Pennsylvania has the third-largest number of casualties in Iraq; only California and Texas have sustained more.

In order to honor our troops and help alleviate some of the stress of leaving their families at home, the legislative bill package addresses a number of their top concerns. Among the

measures are bills to:

- Ensure health coverage for the families of active-duty Guard troops by continuing coverage for state employees who are called to active duty and adding non-public employees who are called to active duty to the state's health insurance plan.
- Provide tuition refund grants to Guard members who are forced to leave school when they are called to active duty.
- Give priority job training to the spouses of active-duty Guard members and Guard members returning from active-duty service.
- Provide free college tuition at state-owned or state-related universities for the spouses of Guard members who are killed on active duty or who die of wounds suffered while on active duty.
- Release active-duty Guard members from various lease and other contract requirements; limit the interest rate on debt owed by active-duty troops and their families.

This list is not exhaustive and leaders in Harrisburg are continually



As a new recruit, state Rep. John Siptroth at age 19, following graduation from Naval basic training in Illinois.

exploring ways to help our troops. We need to protect those who protect us.

My office provides information on many valuable programs, including veterans homes and veterans benefits. Veterans have given our country so much; it's time we give something back.

Please stop by any of my offices to learn more about veterans programs.

Charlie Daniels Band entertains local veterans

Early last month I attended a concert by the Charlie Daniels Band in Bangor, Northampton County, as part of a day dedicated to veterans outreach. A local group, the Slate Belt Veterans Association, was providing outreach services to veterans and current military personnel returning from war. The public concert culminated the event.

The Slate Belt Veterans serve an 11-county area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In Pennsylvania they offer services in Northampton, Bucks, Lehigh, Monroe, Carbon and Pike counties.

If you would like more information on how to contact the Slate Belt Veterans Association please visit or call one of my offices.



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State Representative

John J. Siptroth

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State Representative

John J. Siptroth

189th Legislative District



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Harrisburg on Rep. Siptroth's Web site:

www.pahouse.com/Siptroth

MILITARY REPORT

OFFICE HOURS

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323 Irvis Office Building
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Marshalls Creek, PA 18335-1188
phone (570) 223-2636
toll free (866) 604-5578

Additional hours:

WEST END OFFICE:

Ross Township Building, Fridays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Constituent meetings:

2nd Friday of each month, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

PIKE COUNTY:

Delaware Township Building, Thursdays,
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Constituent Meetings:

3rd Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Also, keep up-to-date on what I am doing in
Harrisburg by visiting my Web site at

www.pahouse.com/Siptroth.

**CHECK OUT MY MONTHLY COLUMN
IN THE COMMUNITY EXPRESS.**