



# Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District

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## Burns vows to fight proposed Ebensburg State Center closure

As news coverage can attest, Rep. Burns is front and center promising to push back hard against proposed legislation that would close the Ebensburg State Center, where nearly 225 mentally and physically disabled adults receive top-notch, specialized care.

Rep. Burns, who has visited the facility and is aware of its value, wants the voices of family members to be heard before any decision is made.



“Before we go changing a system that has literally kept people alive, sometimes beyond medical expectation, there should be a full vetting and support from all stakeholders – starting with those who have loved ones in the Ebensburg State Center.”

Rep. Burns also is concerned that closure of the facility would eliminate the jobs of its current 702 employees.

*“The current staff does an excellent job dealing with adults who have very serious mental and physical disabilities – and for whom ‘round-the-clock care’ is not just a phrase, but a reality,”*  
– Rep. Burns.

## Veterans Day Luncheon scheduled for Nov. 12

Rep. Burns is once again inviting veterans from the 72nd Legislative District to his annual Veterans Day Luncheon, held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 at Cresson Volunteer Fire Co., 223 Ashcroft Ave.

All that veterans need to do is show their military ID to get the complimentary spaghetti meal. **However, those wishing to attend must RSVP no later than Friday, Nov. 3 by calling 814-736-7339.**

At the luncheon, veterans will be able to get their photo identification card from the Cambria County Veterans’ Affairs Office. To obtain a card, veterans must be a county resident and bring their DD-214 or qualifying discharge papers.



Also, Burns and his staff will be on hand with information about various programs available for veterans and their families, including health care, education and job placement services.

Veterans may bring a guest; however, there is a nominal \$5 lunch fee for them.

*“Our veterans put their lives on the line for the freedoms many of us take for granted. The least I can do is provide them a good meal to show our sincere gratitude.”* – Rep. Burns.

# Burns launches campaign to stop bullying in schools

Aware of the detrimental effect it has on students' educational experience, Rep. Burns decided to launch a "Stop Bullying!" campaign at schools throughout the 72nd Legislative District.

Rep. Burns spent much of the early school year visiting classrooms, encouraging each student to sign a pledge to never bully others – and to tell a teacher or parent if they witness any bullying.



*St. Benedict School,  
third and fourth grade*



*Cambria Christian School*

The "Rep. Frank Burns Anti-Bullying Pledge" reminds students that bullying takes many forms, including testing, name-calling, making threats, spreading rumors, purposely excluding someone, pushing, hitting and kicking.

Rep. Burns has personally taken this needed message to classes ranging up to eighth grade at the Cambria Christian, St. Benedict, Cambria Heights, St. Michael's and Portage schools. He plans to visit more schools throughout the current school year.



*Portage Elementary School*



*St. Michael's School, seventh grade*



*Cambria Heights Elementary School, fifth grade*

## Two for one: Burns' latest hire to double as municipal grantwriter

The newest employee in Rep. Burns' district offices — who is replacing a retiree — will double as a grant writer for municipalities in the 72nd Legislative District.

This is another creative way that Rep. Burns tries to maximize the impact of state funds. Brittany Blackham, who started Aug. 30, will perform constituent service duties like the employee she has replaced, but will also put her grantwriting skills and track record to use as needed.

Rep. Burns thought this was necessary, as he's made a habit of reminding municipalities to apply for state grants and believed Blackham's professional experience was a perfect fit to provide free assistance in that area.



*Brittany Blackham*

# Burns notifies Cresson VFC of \$129,000 loan to purchase new pumper truck

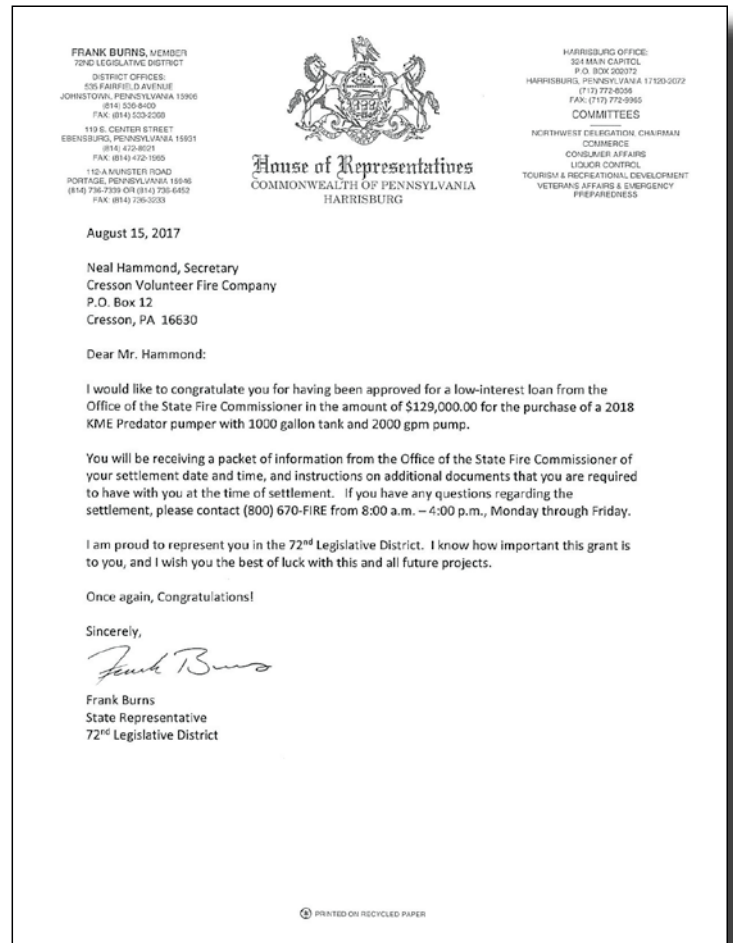
Although such awards often fly under the radar, Rep. Burns in August quietly informed the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company that it would be awarded a \$129,000, low-interest loan to purchase a new 2018 pumper truck.

Rep. Burns, who again participated in Cambria County Fire School training earlier this year, knows what a valuable service our volunteer firefighters and first responders provide to the communities they serve.

The new KME Predator pumper truck heading to Cresson features a 1,000-gallon tank and a 2,000-gallons-per-minute pump. Rep. Burns looks forward to helping all fire companies in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District as much as possible.



**Rep. Burns wields a sledgehammer during a firefighter training exercise involving an overturned school bus.**



**Rep. Burns looks forward to sending more letters like this Aug. 15 correspondence to the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company.**

# Burns provides proof that he's not accepting a state paycheck

Rep. Burns understands that most folks in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District like to take someone at their word, but he's also aware that some like to see proof. That's why he's showing you this letter from the House comptroller, verifying that he's not accepting a state paycheck during the current unfinished budget impasse that began June 30.

Rep. Burns has traditionally gone without a paycheck as long as the state budget is unfinished, most notably during the nine-month impasse of 2015-16, because of a strong belief that legislators should set an example.

Even though Rep. Burns doesn't like to point fingers, he wants you to know that a major reason this job didn't get done earlier is because of profound disagreement between the Republicans in the House and Senate, where they rule by big majorities.

You don't get paid if you don't do your job; Rep. Burns believes the legislature shouldn't, either.



# Rep. Burns visits senior centers throughout the district

One of Rep. Burns' favorite things to do is visit senior centers throughout the 72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District, because he gets to interact with a wise and talkative part of his constituency.

They don't mind telling Rep. Burns where they stand on the issues of the day – and he doesn't mind hearing from them, as it makes him a more effective legislator.

On some of his recent visits, Rep. Burns presented the various senior centers with a certificate of appreciation to coincide with Senior Centers Month.

## PATTON SENIOR CENTER



*Joann Fischer, Kathy Poutran, Rep. Burns, Jean Knarr and Dolores Gens.*

## EBENSBURG SENIOR CENTER



*Leona Noel, Nancy Bumford, Levonne Jacobs, Bob Cornman, Margaret Bopp, Donna Love, Rep. Burns, center director Heather Cummings, Martha Waskovich, June Fether, Joan Nihart, Janet Slatko and Helen Smith.*

## PORTAGE SENIOR CENTER



*Rep. Burns discusses state programs that benefit seniors and fields questions during his visit.*



*Ray Mastrine, Rep. Burns and Barry Templeton*

## Representative Frank Burns' offices can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, disability placards, titles and driver's license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Obtaining and completing state forms of all kinds
- Unemployment compensation, disability and workers' compensation
- Problems with the Department of Human Services (food stamps, medical and income assistance)
- Pennsylvania income tax questions or problems
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding accomplishments and family milestones
- Renewal of state-issued licenses or certifications
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Consumer complaints
- Liquor Control Board concerns or questions
- Tours of the state Capitol for individuals or groups
- Information about federal, state and local government agencies



***Any problem with state government!***