



# Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District



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## Veterans Newsletter

Website: [www.pahouse.com/Burns](http://www.pahouse.com/Burns) • [facebook.com/RepFrankBurns](https://facebook.com/RepFrankBurns)

July 2018

### Burns' bridge namings honor three veterans, one state policeman

In the current legislative session, Rep. Burns authored three House bills that became part of Senate Bill 894, and renamed bridges after:

- Cpl. Robert J. Sherwood, a member of the U.S. Marine Corps who was mortally wounded in Vietnam in 1967 when helping load injured comrades into a medical helicopter. This bridge is on Route 53 over Route 22 in Cresson Township.
- Paul E. Sweeney, a first sergeant in the U.S. Army in World War II who survived a German sniper's percussion grenade and later risked his life leading a tank unit through enemy fire. Sweeney passed away in 2016 at the age of 96. This bridge is over Bridge Street that crosses over Railroad Street in Lilly.
- Trooper Gary Fisher, a member of the Pennsylvania State Police Region V Strike Force who was shot and killed in the line of duty in 1985 while attempting to make an arrest during a drug exchange. This bridge on State Route 271 over Route 22 in Jackson Township.

Burns is also the author of House Bill 1252, which seeks to honor Pfc. Nick Kozorosky, a World War II hero killed in action in 1945, by naming a bridge on U.S. Route 219 South over Route 22 in Cambria Township after him.

As a member of the U.S. Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Pfc. Kozorosky was killed in action near Berchtesgaden, Germany, where Nazi leaders were planning a last stand.

That bill was amended into Senate Bill 1156, which cleared the upper chamber, and is expected to gain House approval this fall.

### Burns to host free spaghetti luncheon for veterans on Aug. 26



Rep. Burns hosts an annual free spaghetti luncheon for veterans, as shown in these photographs from last year's event.

He's holding another one Sunday, Aug. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cresson Volunteer Fire Co. But you need to RSVP his Portage office at (814) 736-7339 by Friday, Aug. 17.

You can find more details and a cut-out postcard that can serve

as a reminder on the last page of this newsletter. Rep. Burns looks forward to seeing you at this year's event to personally thank you for your service.



## Burns favors exempting surviving military spouses from paying property taxes

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rep. Burns voted in favor of House Bill 697, which would exempt the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces killed in action, or who died from injuries they received while in active service, from paying property taxes on their home.

Even if the spouse lived outside of Pennsylvania at the time of their loved one's death but lives here now, the exemption would remain in place. It would also stay in effect if he or she decides to move. However, the exclusion would end if the person remarries.

Rep. Burns believes this is a well-earned gesture for spouses who have lost a husband or wife in the course of military service.

## Opt-in for the Veterans designation on your driver's license

More than 500,000 Pennsylvania Veterans have opted for the Veterans Designation on their driver's license since the program began in 2014. The designation – an American flag with the word VETERAN beneath it – is a patriotic way for veterans to show their pride and convey to others that they served in the United States military.

The veteran's designation does not entitle a veteran to any special consideration or discount but rather identifies the bearer as a veteran. Any other recognition, such as a discount, complementary meal or other token of appreciation, is completely and solely determined by the organization, business or entity providing a service.

Qualified applicants for a veteran's designation must have served in the United States Armed Forces and/or the reserve component, and have been discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

There is no fee for the Veterans Designation, however, regular renewal or duplicate fees still apply. Forms for driver's license or ID renewals and duplicates have a box for applicants to certify that they are a veteran and to have the designation added. Once the Veterans Designation has been added to a driver's license or identification card, it will automatically appear each time it is renewed.

Veterans who are interested can contact one of Rep. Burns' offices for application information.

## Burns supports commission to examine fire, EMS issues; proposes scholarships for volunteers in those fields

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rep. Burns supported Senate Resolution 6, which created a bipartisan, bicameral commission to review and determine what is working and what improvements need to be made to preserve and grow our fire and EMS systems for the future of Pennsylvania.

This commission is also tasked with compiling a report concentrating on specific concerns shared by fire departments and ambulance corps across the state, such as recruitment, retention, and delivery of services.

Rep. Burns drafted the bill as a means to allow emergency services to attract and retain volunteers, thus helping them overcome the problem of sagging membership. He also sees this as a way to help young people defray the cost of higher education while introducing them to important community service.

Under Burns' bill, scholarship recipients would be required to be a member of a volunteer organization for at least six months and maintain active volunteer status – and have graduated from high school or have received a high school equivalency diploma.

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency would be tasked with providing the scholarships from an annual state appropriation.



**The VAEP Committee is also considering Rep. Burn's House Bill 48, which would provide state scholarships to fire company, ambulance service and rescue squad volunteers.**

# Burns serves as major in Pa. Civil Air Patrol

Last year, Rep. Burns joined other legislators being sworn in by Commander Col. Gary L. Fleming to the rank of major in the Pennsylvania Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

The ceremony took place in the Capitol, and Rep. Burns was proud to hold this honorary rank in an organization that in 2016 celebrated its 75th anniversary of volunteer service, sacrifice and love of county.



The Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol is headquartered at Fort Indiantown Gap National

Guard Training Center. Since 2013, it has executed over 67 air and 107 ground sorties in support of disaster relief, missing persons, or search and rescue within the commonwealth, as well as 2,287 counterdrug missions.

Rep. Burns is proud to be associated with such a fine group of community service-minded people.

# Burns continues effort to make assault on law enforcement a hate crime

Rep. Burns has introduced House Bill 158, which would elevate assault on a law enforcement, corrections, probation or parole officer to the status of a hate crime. His bill would stiffen penalties for assaulting a law enforcement officer, making the offense one degree higher than current law. A crime that is a first-degree misdemeanor, for example, would become a third-degree felony.

*“With the escalating attacks on police and prison guards, it’s time to change the law to add employment as a law enforcement officer to the categories of race, color, religion and national origin currently protected by the state’s hate crime statute.”*  
– Rep. Burns.

As founder and leader of the House Blue Lives Matter Caucus, which has Democratic and Republican members committed to legislation of importance to law enforcement, Rep. Burns continues pressing for passage of his bill.

House Bill 158 currently is under consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. Rep. Burns believes public pressure is needed in other areas of Pennsylvania to bring it before the full House for a vote.



*In recognition of Armed Forces Day on May 19, Rep. Burns stood with Sankertown VFW Post 7377 for its Veterans Community Park Dedication. He believes in honoring all of our veterans for their sacrifice.*



# A COMPLIMENTARY SPAGHETTI LUNCH FOR OUR VETERANS\*

Hosted by State Rep. Frank Burns

## Sunday, August 26, 2018

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Cresson Volunteer Fire Co. • 223 Ashcroft Ave., Cresson



**\*The complimentary spaghetti lunch only applies to veterans with a Military ID**



RSVP no later than Friday, August 17, by calling my Portage office at (814) 736-7339.



## 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
- Requests for literature of all kinds — bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, etc.
- Disability license plates and placards
- 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
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies

**Any problem with state government!**