



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANE WATRO

116TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WORKING FOR YOU



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thanks for taking the time to read my latest newsletter. I hope you find it to be interesting and informative.

You are reminded that the staff at my district offices in Hazleton and Mahanoy City are always available to answer your questions and help to resolve any state-related problems. You can also reach me by email at dwatro@pahousegop.com.

I invite you to visit my website at RepWatro.com, where you will find useful information about recent developments in Harrisburg, along with a variety of state forms and applications. You can also sign up for my email updates, and be sure to follow me on Facebook and X.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your state representative.

Sincerely,

Dane D. Watro

As a U.S. Army veteran and member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, it was truly an honor for me to speak before members of the Pennsylvania American Legion during their 105th annual convention in Harrisburg. I am committed to advocating for the needs of our veterans, ensuring they receive the respect, support and recognition they so rightly deserve.



I teamed up with a local congressman to secure the medals of U.S. Army veteran Edward Peters, who died from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. The Peters family had been unsuccessful in obtaining them, but our offices made it happen. It was my honor to present the medals to his wife, Mary, and other family members.



National Night Out in Hazleton included a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new police station on North Church Street. Moving to this new location allows police to be more accessible to the public and opens up space at city hall. We had a great turnout for the community event despite the rainy weather!



New Law Supports Disabled Veterans

Recognizing the service and sacrifice of disabled veterans across the state, a new law will exempt 100% of their benefit payments from income calculations for any Commonwealth programs or benefits.

Act 27 of 2024 ensures veterans who receive disability compensation will not have those payments counted against them when applying to programs such as the Real Estate Property Tax Exemption, Education Gratuities Program, Veterans Temporary Assistance Program and Military Family Relief Assistance Program. It also extends the exclusion of the veterans' compensation benefits to their unmarried surviving spouses.

The new law is now in effect.

Honored to Serve on Agent Orange Task Force

I was recently appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Task Force on Agent Orange and Other Toxins. The task force was created earlier this year with the unanimous adoption of a bipartisan House resolution of which I was a co-sponsor.

The task force will be comprised of several members of military organizations and members of the House and Senate who will study and form recommendations on how best to communicate with veterans affected

by Agent Orange to connect them with the benefits for which they are eligible and available treatment options.

I am honored to be named to the task force. This issue is a personal one for me as I have an uncle who is one of those veterans who was exposed to the toxic herbicide. He is now blind and struggles with his daily activities. We need to do all we can to help him and his fellow veterans whose lives have been forever changed by Agent Orange.



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116TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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I have a wonderful staff that is always ready to assist you!



Senior Expo Set for Sept. 19

My staff and I look forward to welcoming older residents to our Senior Expo on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Laurel Mall in Hazle Township.

There are many programs and services available in our area to help seniors and their caregivers, and my expo makes it easier and more convenient to learn about them by bringing everyone together in one place.

Health screenings will also be offered, including glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure. Blood and glucose testing will begin at 9 a.m. Participants should refrain from eating after midnight.

In addition, we'll be collecting used eyeglasses and any old or unwanted prescription drugs.

We hope to see you there!

Discounted Vehicle Registration Fee for Retirees

Retired Pennsylvania drivers who meet the income guidelines are eligible for a discounted vehicle registration fee from PennDOT. The driver can register a passenger vehicle or light truck (9,000 pounds or less) for an \$11 annual processing fee instead of paying the full price.

For a retired individual to be eligible for the discounted fee, his or her total annual income from all sources must not exceed \$19,200. A new

state law will raise the program's income cap for the first time in 25 years. Effective in mid-December, retirees earning up to \$29,906 will be eligible for the reduced registration.

My staff can help those who need assistance applying for the discounted registration.