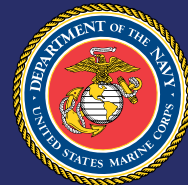




# Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District



## VETERAN'S UPDATE

### Burns' bill guaranteeing military families in-state tuition passes House

Using his seniority and experience, Rep. Burns gained unanimous House approval for his bill that would aid military families by guaranteeing in-state tuition for a college student, even if their active-duty parent is reassigned to another state.

Rep. Burns' success in getting Democratic and Republican support

for House Bill 1050 is another example of how his willingness to reach across the aisle – and work in a bipartisan fashion for the common good – can get things done in Harrisburg.

Taking care of our veterans and their families is one reason Rep. Burns chooses to continue serving

on the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

There, he uses his knowledge of the legislative process and the personal relationships he's built up over the years to get results like passage of H.B. 1050, which ends discrimination against military families.



As an active member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rep. Burns is always working to make sure veterans get the help and respect they deserve.

# Burns honors veterans with annual free luncheon

As a yearly tribute to honor their service and sacrifice, Rep. Burns pays out of his own pocket to host a free luncheon for veterans. The event also provides him an opportunity to hear their concerns and issues he can address through legislation or by offering his office's help.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced cancellation of this year's luncheon, so we'll have to look forward to next year's gathering at the Cresson Volunteer Fire Co.

In the meantime, Rep. Burns presents these photos from the most recent annual veterans' luncheons, as reminders that veterans will never be forgotten on his watch.



## Burns beats back gun control efforts

When Harrisburg politicians propose \$10-a-year gun registration fees, or local governments attempt to regulate firearms, or big cities want to become sanctuaries to shield illegal aliens, Rep. Burns has one answer: "Not gonna' happen on my watch."

Rep. Burns isn't afraid to take strong, visible stands in favor of Second Amendment rights and against illegal immigration, because his job is to represent you – not special interests, other House members, or people living on the opposite side of Pennsylvania.

**“ I will always defend your 2nd Amendment rights. ”**  
– Rep. Burns



## Burns supports property tax relief for more disabled veterans, spouses

Upon learning that property tax relief in Pennsylvania is not available to veterans who are disabled outside of a combat zone or to the spouse of a veteran killed in action, Rep. Burns called for the Pennsylvania Constitutional amendment required to fix those problems.



His support of H.B. 1787 is the first step toward extending the property tax exemption to Pennsylvanians who are the surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who was killed in action or missing and presumed dead – or who received a disability rating of 100% by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and subsequently passed away.

The change would also expand eligibility to veterans who were disabled somewhere other than a combat zone.

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## Burns briefed on National Guard efforts to ensure safety at PA's eight veterans' homes

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Rep. Burns returned to Harrisburg in May for a briefing from a top National Guard official on the organization's COVID-19 response – including steps taken to protect those living in the state's eight veterans' homes.

Rep. Burns learned that approximately 150 Pennsylvania National Guard providers, nurses and general-purpose service-members are assisting in those eight long-term care facilities – an unprecedented level of support during the pandemic.

***“I want to thank the adjutant general, the National Guard, and the state employees who are doing everything they can to protect those veterans who protected us all.” – Rep. Burns***

## Burns helps PA National Guard members get education benefits



PA National Guard members who re-enlist for another six-year stint can now earn five years of higher education benefits for their spouse and children, in no small part due to Rep. Burns' support of the 2019 law that created the PA National Guard Military Family Education Program.

Under the new program, the education benefit is pegged to the cost of tuition in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. If a student elects to go to a school with lower tuition than PASSHE, they will owe nothing; if they choose to attend a pricier institution, they must pay the difference.

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## Burns backs update of bill that makes it a crime to lie about military service for profit

Pennsylvania's "Stolen Valor Act," which makes it a crime to impersonate a member or veteran of the U.S. military for profit, got an update supported by Rep. Burns.

As a result, all fines collected under the act will be deposited in the Veterans' Trust Fund to boost programs that assist veterans and their families.

Rep. Burns thinks this is a fitting way to punish imposters who seek to benefit financially by pawning themselves off as veterans or active-duty military members.



State Representative  
**Frank Burns**  
 P.O. Box 202072  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2072

lpo.jc.0720

## Burns names, dedicates district bridges to honor veterans

Every year, Rep. Burns secures passage of legislation to name bridges throughout the 72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District in honor of veterans, making sure their places in history and the oft-dangerous circumstances under which they bravely served – and sometimes died – are not forgotten.

Here are a few of them.



A member of the famed 101st Airborne Division, Pfc. Kozorosky was killed in action on May 4, 1945 near Berchtesgaden, Germany, where Nazi leaders were planning a last stand. Berchtesgaden, in the Bavarian Alps, was in the vicinity of Adolph Hitler's well-known Eagle's Nest retreat. His bridge carries Route 219 over Route 22 in Cambria Township.



A World War II Silver Star recipient who died while serving the U.S. Army in France, Pfc. Cooney encountered heavy sniper and machine gun fire while helping clear mines along a strategically important road. He was later killed in action when a delayed-action mine detonated. His bridge is on a portion of Cooney Road spanning Route 22 in Munster Township.



A Vietnam War hero killed in action in 1967 while loading injured fellow Marines onto a medical helicopter, Cpl. Sherwood was 19 when he died in the Quang Tin province skirmish. His bridge is located on a portion of Pennsylvania Route 53 over U.S. Route 22 in Cresson Township.



Discharged from the Army in 1945 with the rank of First Sergeant, World War II veteran Sweeney was a combat engineer who saw action in the St. Lo campaign after landing at Normandy and received a Silver Star for his actions in combat. He also received the Purple Heart for injuries received from a German sniper. His bridge is located along Overbridge and Railroad streets in Lilly.