

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Chris Sainato

DATE: January 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Legislation creating a veterans graves decoration fund

In the near future I intend to introduce two bills which will better allow the Commonwealth to honor veteran grave sites. **The first bill** would amend Title 51 (Veterans Affairs), creating the Decoration of Veterans Graves Fund. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be able to use this fund to care for and decorate veterans grave sites, as well as for the placement of veteran grave markers and American flags. Counties who apply to the program will receive markers and flags from the Department.

The second bill would amend the Tax Reform Code of 1971, allowing for Pennsylvania tax payers to contribute to the fund. A space on the Pennsylvania income tax return form will be provided for any individual who wishes to voluntarily contribute to the fund for the purchase flags and grave markers.

Many Pennsylvania taxpayers have expressed interest in contributing to this cause, and this legislation would create a way for us all to continue to honor those brave Pennsylvania veterans who have served our nation. Should you wish to join me by co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Tracy Balistrere at 772-2436 or tbalistr@pahouse.net.