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JUN 20 2011

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Senate of Pennsylvania

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TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Senator Patricia H. Vance
DATE: June 20, 2011
SUBJECT: Memo #21 –Closure of Army Heritage and Education Center

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution urging Congress to reconsider the establishment of the “National Museum of the US Army” in Fort Belvoir, VA and to support the growth of the US Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) in Carlisle, PA.

The USAHEC is the Army’s preeminent museum and research complex. It educates and preserves the legacy of the men and women who have served our nation as soldiers and whose sacrifices richly deserve to be remembered. In less than a decade, USAHEC already is home to the Military History Institute in Ridgway Hall, the Army Heritage Trail and the just opened Visitor and Education Center. Construction of the U.S. Army Conservation Center on campus is almost complete.

The Army announced on Friday, June 17, 2011 that the national museum will be constructed in Fort Belvoir, VA at a cost of \$155 million. Thus far, \$57.8 million has been raised in private donations for the museum but taxpayer dollars will be necessary to cover the shortfall. This is an unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars when the facility in Carlisle already has the space available to house a new museum and is in a premier location to receive visitors.

In addition, a recent Department of the Army budget group has recommended closing USAHEC and moving its military collection to Fort McNair, DC. This is senseless when USAHEC has already received \$48 million in state, federal and county support including the donation of 56 acres by Cumberland County valued at \$3.3 million.

If the Army truly wishes to control costs, USAHEC should remain in Carlisle and become home to the National Museum of the US Army.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact my office by Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 787-8524 or email Tracy Polovick at tpolovick@pasen.gov.