



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Commends Governor for Signing Veterans Legislation

Barnitz Calls on Governor to Approve Funding for Veterans Cemetery

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, today announced he is pleased with Gov. Blunt’s signing of several important pieces of legislation benefiting Missouri veterans. Barnitz also said he looks forward to the Governor signing legislation providing funding for the new Missouri State Veterans Cemetery, to be located near Fort Leonard Wood.

“The legislation signed into law this week furthers Missouri’s commitment to its esteemed veterans,” Barnitz said. “These measures will offer greater assistance to Missouri veterans and their families while providing greater recognition of their achievements.”

Gov. Blunt on Tuesday, June 13, signed the following bills into law:

- House Bill 978: Establishes the Vietnam War Medallion Program.
- HB 983: Requires the U.S. and Missouri flags to be flown at half-staff on all government buildings on September 11 of each year.
- HB 984: Encourages all government buildings, businesses and citizens to display the POW/MIA flag on Memorial Day, July 4, September 11 and Veterans Day.
- HB 1491: Requires the state to determine whether an individual who is applying for Medicaid also is eligible for federal medical services. If an applicant or recipient is eligible for federal assistance, the state must urge the person to utilize these benefits.
- HB 1552: Allows homeless veterans to use the post office box or voice mail number of a charitable or religious organization on applications for state or federal assistance.

- HB 1787: Provides resources to military families when the primary income-earner is called to active duty for more than four months.
- Senate Bill 1026: Authorizes the Lieutenant Governor to administer certain veterans programs and funds.

While commending the Governor for signing these important measures, Barnitz also said he anticipates the signing of budget legislation funding the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery to be built near Fort Leonard Wood.

“Central Missouri is home to a world-class U.S. Army base in Fort Leonard Wood and many retired veterans,” Barnitz said. “I have heard repeatedly from veterans that they would like to be put to rest near their honorable army base, and lawmakers have responded with matching funds to help make this happen. I know Gov. Blunt will support these efforts and sign this important legislation into law.”

The new Missouri State Veterans Cemetery will be located outside Fort Leonard Wood’s main gate. Barnitz has worked to procure \$500,000 in state funding for development of the property, which would be the only Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in central Missouri. The 218-acre cemetery is an \$8.1 million project. Many local, regional, state and federal officials and organizations are working together to see the project through to fruition.

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