

Frank A. Barnitz 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District For Immediate Release: September 1, 2009 CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 427 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101 Contact: Tony Benz

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## Sen. Frank Barnitz Appointed to Missouri Veterans Commission

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, has been appointed to serve on the Missouri Veterans Commission. Legislation passed and signed into law this year adds legislators to the Missouri Veterans Commission, which works to provide services to Missouri's veterans.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District includes Fort Leonard Wood, giving Sen. Barnitz the opportunity to represent a large concentration of soldiers and veterans. He also serves on the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission. During his time in the General Assembly, Sen. Barnitz has worked to represent military men and women by passing legislation to encourage retired veterans to stay in the state, pay tribute to those who make the ultimate sacrifice, and create and expand a variety of programs designed to honor those who have served.

"Senator Barnitz's background representing military men and women means he is not a new face for us," said Larry Kay, Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission. "We've worked closely with him in the past, and we look forward to continuing to work with him on veterans' issues in the state."

The Missouri Veterans Commission duties include providing a safe, comfortable environment for



Senator Frank Barnitz at a veterans memorial dedication in Salem on August 22.

For a high resolution jpg of the photo above, contact <a href="mailto:sreed@senate.mo.gov">sreed@senate.mo.gov</a>.

residents of veterans' homes, providing timely and compassionate benefit services to veterans and dependents, and providing honorable resting places for deceased veterans through a system of state veterans' cemeteries.

House Bill 427, a comprehensive military measure, goes into effect on August 28<sup>th</sup>. One provision of the legislation adds four members of the legislature to the Missouri Veterans Commission, two members from the Senate and two members from the House of Representatives. In each chamber, one member was chosen by the majority and one by the minority to ensure bipartisan representation on the commission.

"We work very hard in the Legislature to ensure that veterans in our state receive the services they need and deserve," said Sen. Barnitz. "By adding legislators to the Veterans Commission, we are allowing the General Assembly to have a better grasp of these needs so we can best address them."