



STATE SENATOR
PATRICK COLBECK
District E-Mail Newsletter



Veteran's Update

November 10, 2011

Colbeck Teams Up with Others to Launch Freedom Center

Freedom Center, a permanent lounge dedicated to traveling members of our Armed Forces, will open inside the McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Veterans Day, November 11. Senator Colbeck joined forces with the Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc., a new non-profit organization spearheading the effort, to open the new lounge.

"For more than a generation there has not been a full-time military hospitality lounge in the State of Michigan," said Ken Pratt, president of the Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center. "Starting this November that will change with the opening of Freedom Center. Freedom Center will serve members of the Armed Forces and their dependents."

"Because of the generosity of numerous volunteers and donors, we are going to be able to provide a comfortable space for members of our military and their families as they travel through Metro Airport," said Senator Colbeck. "It is one small way for us to say 'thank you' to our men and women in uniform and their families, who sacrifice so much for us and our nation."

Hosted by a dedicated staff of trained volunteers, the special needs of the thousands of military travelers who pass through Detroit Metro monthly will be now be met seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Punishing Stolen Valor

It's hard to believe that some people look to profit from the honorable service of our veterans.

I supported legislation that would punish those who fraudulently claim to be a veteran or a member of the military, or who misrepresent their military service for personal gain.

Under Senate Bill 386, imposters would face a fine, imprisonment or both, and community service in a veterans' home or service organization.

Often called "stolen valor", this intentional misrepresentation dishonors the courageous men and women who actually serve our country.

The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

Gold Star License Plates



Michigan offers specialty plates recognizing prisoners of war, veterans of World War I and II, Vietnam and other conflicts, Pearl Harbor survivors, disabled veterans and Purple Heart medal recipients.

Now, thanks to new laws, families can honor their loved ones who died in service to our country and veterans can obtain specially inscribed plates for their motorcycles.

Under Public Act 46 of 2011 (Senate Bill 102) a spouse, parent, sibling or child of a member of the armed services who died during combat can apply for a special license plate inscribed with a gold star and the words "Gold Star Family."

This special plate honors the sacrifices borne by our military families, and acts as a "moving memorial" for those who lost their lives in combat.

Public Acts 73 and 74 of 2011 allow veterans to purchase a specialty military service license plate on their motorcycle. The new plates let vets display their service with pride, and remind motorists of the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve our country.

Questions or comments? Please contact Senator Colbeck at:

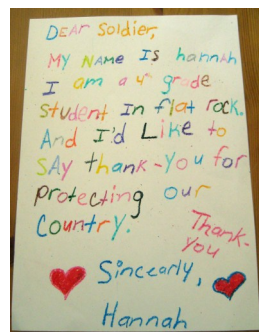
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For more information, please visit Senator Colbeck's Facebook page at: Senator Patrick Colbeck

Our Children Say "Thank-You" to Our Vets for their Service



Veteran's Day Events

Woodhaven Veterans Day Ceremony

The city of Woodhaven invites you to their Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 1:00pm.

The ceremony will be held at the Woodhaven Memorial Monument located next to City Hall. Following the ceremony will be light refreshments.

If you have questions about this event, please call Community Relations at 734-362-2913.

Canton's Salute to Service Event

Canton Township will hold their annual Salute to Service program at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 at Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

The evening is devoted to honoring those who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. This free program is open to the public.

Veteran's Affairs Cable Show

Local cable stations are now airing November's episode of *Lansing From a New Perspective*, moderated by Sen. Colbeck.

This month's show addresses the new Freedom Center at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and issues our Veteran's have with state government.

The show is scheduled to run:

- Comcast cable system on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.;
- Channel 12 of Van Buren Township's cable system VBTV on Mondays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. and 11 p.m.;
- and Sumpter Township's Community Access Channel, Channel 12, at various times daily.

Honor Flight Sends 35 Michigan WWII Veterans to DC

On Friday, November 4, Ford Motor Co. flew 35 World War II Veterans from Michigan to the nation's capital to see the National World War II Memorial. Ford sponsored the flight through Michigan's Honor Flight program.

Three local Veterans participated in the flight – Charles Tramel Jr. from Plymouth, Donald Bosman from Belleville and my friend M.J. Richter from Livonia.

I had the honor of being present at the airport to see the Veterans off and it was a memorable, moving experience. All of the veterans are now in their late 80s or 90s and for most a visit to see the Memorial would not have been possible without the generosity and kindness of Ford Motor Company and the many volunteers who helped make the event happen.

World War II Veterans in our area who wish to take an all-expenses paid trip to their Memorial in Washington D.C., can contact the following organization in Michigan:

Pride and Honor of Michigan:
www.rc.net/org/prideandhonorflight/
Jack & Faye Wiseley -- 734-426-8931,
jfwiseley@chartermi.net

To remove your name from our mailing list, please respond back to this email with the word REMOVE in the subject line.