

# State Senator **JOHN RAFFERTY**



## *Reports to You*

44TH DISTRICT • WINTER/SPRING 2010

### **Rafferty Named Transportation Committee Chairman**

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25) has appointed me to chair the Senate Transportation Committee, replacing Sen. Rob Wonderling, who resigned to take a position with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

This chairmanship gives me the opportunity to focus on the transportation infrastructure needs in Southeastern Pennsylvania and all of Pennsylvania.

I look forward to using this new position to help improve our transportation system, which is crucial to protecting public safety and also expanding our economy.

Transportation issues affect every resident in Pennsylvania, whether it involves a daily commute to work or a bus ride on the public transit system or the movement of goods. Our goal is to have a modern, efficient system that meets the needs of its users.



*Sen. Rafferty, former chairman of the Senate Law & Justice Committee, now heads the Senate Transportation Committee.*

Scarnati said Rafferty was chosen because of his knowledge of the issues and his interest in taking on new transportation challenges.

"As a member of the committee, John demonstrated a broad understanding of the major issues we are

facing regarding transportation, and as chairman, I know he will work well with the members, the House and the administration to improve our vast transportation network," Scarnati said.



### **Branch of Service Veteran License Plates Available**

Honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces can now proudly display their service with a new series of military license plates. PennDOT is offering honoring veterans of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

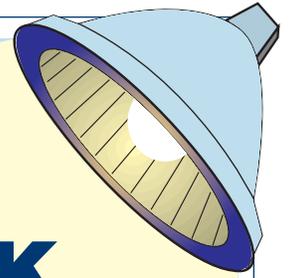
The new plates feature the standard Pennsylvania license plate colors

of blue, white and yellow along with the applicable branch of service emblem on the left side of the plate. Pennsylvania is printed across the top of the plate with the name of the branch of service printed at the bottom.

To obtain one of the military plates, honorably discharged veterans should complete and mail Form MV-150, Application for United States

Military Veteran Registration Plate, to PennDOT along with a certified copy of their DD-214 and a check for \$20.

Form MV-150 is available on PennDOT's website ([www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us)) by clicking on the Military License Plates link under Military Personnel/Veterans Information Center.



*In each newsletter, we will focus on one of the municipalities in the 44th Senatorial District. In this issue the*

## Spotlight Shines on **LIMERICK**

### **HISTORY**

**L**imerick Township was first settled by Welsh immigrants during the last decade of the 17th Century but not incorporated until 1726. Originally including the nearby community of Royersford, which later became a separate borough, the Village of Limerick saw its first concentrated settlement in the area of Ridge and Swamp Pikes.

The Township has grown from its humble beginnings to a thriving municipality which now is home to Exelon's Limerick Generating Station, Philadelphia Premium Outlets, a major medical facility and Heritage Field (formerly Pottstown-Limerick Airport). Dozens of commercial and industrial businesses also call Limerick home and the Township is one of four communities that make up the

### **TOWNSHIP-AT-A-GLANCE**

- At 22 square miles, Limerick is geographically the second largest township in Montgomery County.
- The Limerick Township Building is located at 646 W. Ridge Pike and office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- The Township Board of Supervisors meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Township Building and begin at 7 p.m.
- Members of the Board of Supervisors are Kenneth W. Sperring Jr., Chairman; Kara Shuler, Vice Chair; Elaine DeWan, Joseph St. Pedro and Tom Neafcy, Jr.
- Daniel K. Kerr is Township Manager.
- Township office phone – 610-495-6432, Fax – 610-495-0353

### **FUN FACTS**

- George Washington stayed at the Mordecai Evans house in Linfield.
- Limerick Church Burial Ground along South Limerick Center Road dates to the Colonial Era.
- Limerick was home to Peter Frederick Roethermel, world renowned artist, famous for his historic Gettysburg paintings. Some of his work hangs in our State Capitol.
- With 482 acres of state game lands, Limerick has the only two remaining state game lands in Montgomery County.
- The game land connects to the Stone Hill Preserves, which runs through Limerick and the neighboring Fredricks connecting with the Perkiomen Trail.
- The biggest tourist attraction in Limerick is the Philadelphia Premium Outlet Mall.
- Limerick Township is home to five golf courses, and there is access to the Schuylkill River at Linfield Park.

Spring-Ford Area School District.

Despite the rapid growth along the Route 422 Corridor, Limerick has maintained a balance of rural charm with the commercial and residential development, and is proud of its three public parks and recreational opportunities. Among the gems in Limerick is the 56-acre Limerick Community Park with the Manderach Memorial Playground as its focal point.

Limerick is protected by a 21-officer police department and volunteer firefighters from the Limerick and Linfield Fire Companies who are ready to answer any call at any time.



*Sen. Rafferty speaks with Rep. Tom Quigley, center, and one of his constituents at Limerick's Community Day event.*



**Township website: [www.limerickpa.org](http://www.limerickpa.org)**

*Senator John Rafferty's*

# PHOTO GALLERY



*Sen. Rafferty with Sen. Joe Scarnati in the Senate Chamber during swearing-in ceremonies for Sen. Scarnati as Senate President Pro Tempore. Sen. Rafferty presided over the ceremony.*



*Sen. Rafferty, then chairman of the Senate Law and Justice Committee, watches as Gov. Rendell signs SB 369, the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act.*



*Sen. Rafferty asks a question of the Pennsylvania State Police during budget hearings in Harrisburg.*



*Sen. Rafferty with Bill Covaleski during a tour of the Victory Brewing facility in Downingtown.*



*Barry Bennecoff, (left to right) Ray Oxenford, Eugene Burkhart, Sen. Rafferty and Pat Oxenford examine the hand-crafted Christmas ornaments that the Berks Guild of Craftsmen made for decorating the Christmas tree at the Governor's Mansion.*

## Lacey's Law Would Save Lives By Addressing Junior Driver Safety

The number one cause of death of individuals between the age of 16 and 24 is motor vehicle accidents. As the new Senate Transportation Committee Chairman, one of my top priorities is addressing junior driver safety.

My first action as Transportation Chairman was to report out of Committee HB 67, Lacey's Law. The measure, which would place restrictions on young drivers, has passed the House and will now go to the full Senate for action.

The bill would strengthen teen driving laws by limiting the number of passengers under the age of 18



who are allowed to drive with an individual operating a motor vehicle under a junior driver license. It would also prohibit junior drivers from using a cell phone or texting while operating a motor vehicle.

The bill is named after Lacey Gallagher, who was killed on April 28, 2007 in a single-car accident which occurred on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in northern Bucks County. She was a passenger in an SUV occupied by six other teens who were attending an after-prom party.

## The RX to Keep Pennsylvania Doctors in Pennsylvania

I have introduced two important pieces of legislation that will encourage our doctors to remain in Pennsylvania.

The first bill will create an MCARE Commission to address the future disbursement of MCARE Funds. MCARE funds medical malpractice premiums. The MCARE Commission will consist of one representative from the Governor's Office, and one representative from each of the four caucuses of the House and Senate. This Commission will also include three members from the medical community selected by the Pennsylvania Medical Society, two hospital administrators and a medical school student.

This Commission will be responsible for the complete review and authorization of all funding emanating from the MCARE Fund. This legislation would also require a consensus from the Commission in order for funding to be approved.



The second bill is aimed to encourage medical students who attend a Pennsylvania medical school or do their residency here to stay in the Commonwealth after graduation.

Pennsylvania has some of the best medical schools in the country, but unfortunately, many of the students leave Pennsylvania for other states upon graduation.

My bill will provide for loan forgiveness for each medical student who attends and graduates from a Pennsylvania school, works as a doctor in Pennsylvania for up to 10 years and volunteers at least 100 hours per year in the health care field.

Both bills are currently in committee.

## New Emergency Notification System Unveiled

An emergency notification system that helps to provide Pennsylvanians with timely information during an urgent situation is now in effect with the launch of AlertPA.

When severe weather, emergencies and life and health-threatening events occur, Pennsylvania residents

can be among the first to be notified by signing up for AlertPA.

AlertPA is a system that helps officials send emergency text and email alerts quickly to users that will allow them to make informed decisions.

Individuals can register for AlertPA by going to [www.pa.gov](http://www.pa.gov) and clicking on the link to "Alerts and Advisories."

Users can choose to be notified by pager, text or email as well as selecting the type of emergency information they wish to receive.

In an effort to reach as many people as possible during a prison emergency, the Department of Corrections is enhancing its present system by using AlertPA.



*Sen. John Rafferty, (left to right) Rep. Mike Vereb and Rep. Tom Quigley joined forces to honor our area veterans during Sen. Rafferty's annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at the Sunnybrook Ballroom.*

## ★ A Salute to Our Veterans ★

More than 350 people gathered recently at the Sunnybrook Ballroom for the second annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast when we honored the "troops" by saluting veterans from Berks, Chester and Montgomery Counties.

I related the story of Sgt. David Dolby, a Congressional Medal of Honor award recipient, noting his acts of heroism and bravery under fire while serving in Vietnam. I felt it was important to thank each veteran for their sacrifice and service to our country, and to salute the spirit of the American veteran.

Selfless service, love of country, devotion to duty, sacrifice – that is the story of the American veteran. Those we honor now, along with American veterans from all eras, have kept their promise – the noble promise to protect our nation, the greatest nation in the world.

It was my honor to salute the men and women who served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces. They gave of themselves for us; now we can show a level of our appreciation to them.



*More than 350 people, military veterans and their guests, packed the Sunnybrook Ballroom for the second annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast.*



*Rebecca Kesselring, Commandant of the Southeast Veterans Center in Spring City, was the featured speaker at this patriotic event.*



*Sen. Rafferty welcomes Marine Lance Cpl. Robert Carpenter to the breakfast.*



*A color guard opened the program which saluted veterans from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.*

Serving Berks, Chester and Montgomery Counties

Pennsylvania State Senator

**John Rafferty**

44th Senatorial District

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*Visit my website at [www.senatorrafferty.com](http://www.senatorrafferty.com)*

## Traffic Check

Before hitting the road, motorists in the 44th District can check travel conditions by calling 511 or visiting [www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com). The website, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides weather reports, traffic delay warnings, average traffic speeds and access to nearly 450 traffic cameras.

511PA also provides easy to follow, color-coded road conditions for all interstates and other major routes covered in the 511 reporting network.

To view road conditions on major highways in Southeastern Pennsylvania go to [www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com) and click on the link to "Travel Conditions," then "Traffic Map," then on "Traffic Cameras." Cameras are placed along major roadways including Interstates 76, 95 and 476, as well as Routes 422, 202, 100 and 30 in Montgomery and Chester Counties.

## Senator Rafferty's Newsletter Is Now Available Electronically

In an effort to reach constituents quicker and do our part to help the environment, Senator Rafferty's newsletter is now available electronically. You can register at [www.senatorrafferty.com/email.htm](http://www.senatorrafferty.com/email.htm) for the email version or find the link on our website to sign up for email updates.



### State Senator John Rafferty 44th District Legislative Offices

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#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday evening until 7 p.m. in the Pottstown office only

First Saturday of the month 9 a.m. to noon in the Collegetown office