

Memorial Day Observances

Memorial Day is such a solemn and meaningful day, set aside to honor and remember our fallen military service members. I had the privilege of participating in two Memorial Day observances in our district this week.



It was a tremendous honor to be the guest speaker at the Lebanon County Memorial Day ceremony at Monument Park. My message was about the solemnity of the day and gratitude for the liberties and freedoms we enjoy because others were willing to put their lives on the line to protect and preserve them. God bless all of our fallen and their families, and may we never forget what they sacrificed so we can live free.

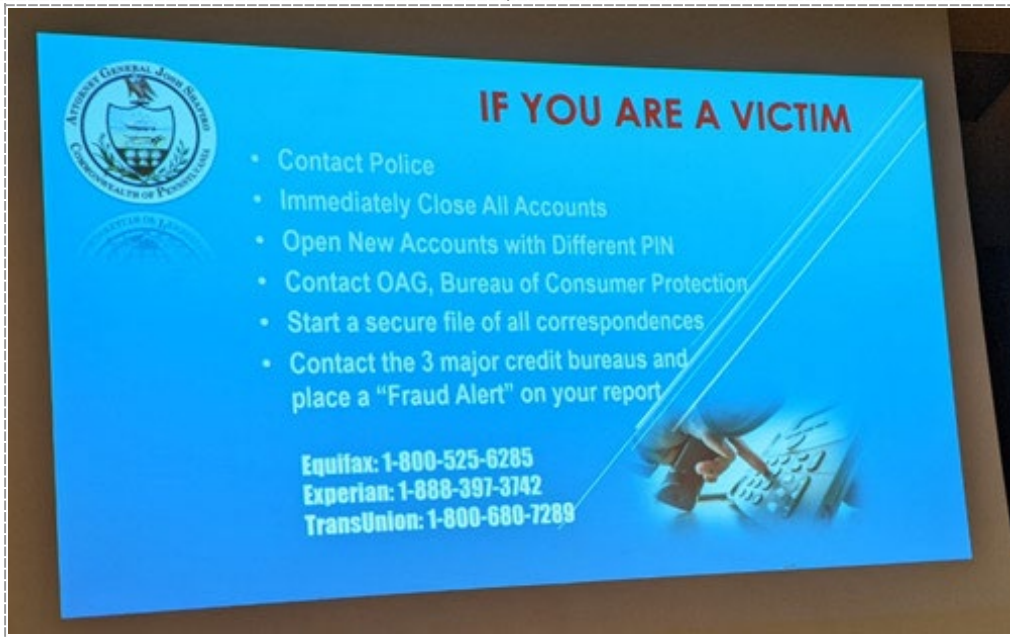
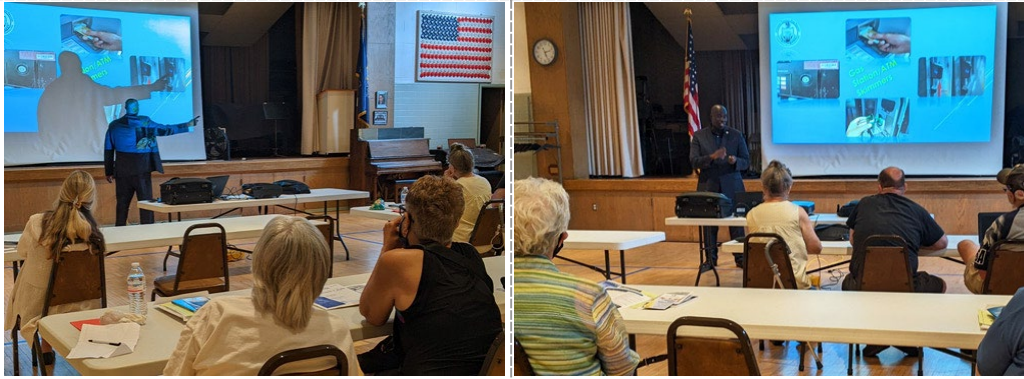


It was also a pleasure to participate in the Palmyra Memorial Day parade with Nancie Coover and her son, Luke. Nancie works in our district office. It was great to see so many good friends in one place. The band was outstanding and the community spirit exceptional.

Mahaffey Boys of Palmyra Claim State Doubles Title

Congratulations to Aiden and Tyler Mahaffey of Palmyra Area High School, on winning the 2022 PIAA 3A Boys' Doubles Tennis Championship on Saturday. Well done! [The win earned them special recognition on WGAL TV.](#)

How to Avoid Scams



On Thursday, I hosted a seminar on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam. Senior citizens are often the targets of scams. However, anyone can fall victim to them. The seminar highlighted some of the clever techniques used by scammers to trick you into giving up your assets and personal information. My thanks to Jerry Mitchell of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, who conducted the seminar, sharing his knowledge and experience on this type of fraud and how to protect ourselves against it.

Veterans Beware of 'Pension Poaching'

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is urging veterans and their advocates to be on high alert for scammers looking to poach their VA pension benefits. Veteran pension poaching occurs when scammers, unscrupulous players or dishonest financial planners, charge veterans or their beneficiaries for help in applying for or submitting applications for VA pensions. The scheme often involves financial maneuvers such as advising claimants to hide their assets in trusts or annuity products sometimes resulting in lost investments and lucrative fees paid to the advisor. Veterans and their advocates should remember to NEVER share their VA login information, or deposit VA benefits directly into a third-party bank account unless the person is court appointed or a VA accredited fiduciary. Veterans or their advocates should never pay for forms or to submit applications; to restructure assets in order to “qualify”; for the promise of eligibility for a pension; or to receive a lump sum payment on a pension. There are approximately [200 veteran service officers](#) in Pennsylvania who work within organizations such as the DMVA, [county veterans affairs offices](#) and several veterans service organizations. If you have experienced or suspect a pension scam, contact the Office of Attorney General at **717-783-1944**, email PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov, or submit a complaint online at attorneygeneral.gov. As always, my office would be happy to assist you.



House Approves Turnpike Consumer Protection Bill

Legislation to better protect consumers who travel the Pennsylvania Turnpike has been unanimously approved by the state House. [House Bill 2139](#), which I co-sponsored, would require the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) to notify an E-ZPass account holder the first time the person incurs a v-toll in a calendar year. V-tolls are assessed when a driver’s E-ZPass transponder is not detected as their vehicle enters or exits the turnpike or travels through a toll plaza. In 2021, more than 200,000 Pennsylvanians were charged v-tolls and many were unaware of the charges. The bill



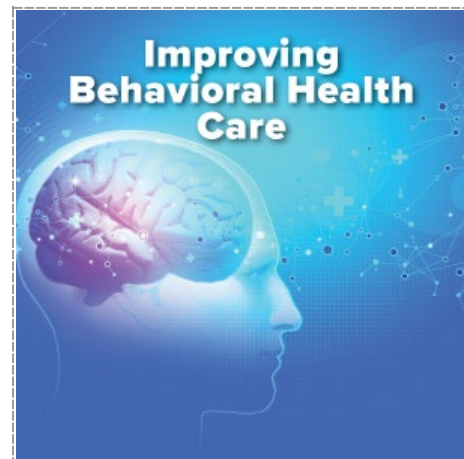
also would:

- Decrease the threshold at which penalties can be assessed against drivers who don't pay. A driver's vehicle registration could be suspended after four unpaid tolls, rather than the current six, and after \$250 in unpaid tolls instead of the current \$500.
- Make technical updates to reflect the move toward cashless tolling and clarify what constitutes affirmative action by a driver to evade paying turnpike tolls.
- Require a feasibility study to review third-party processing and transaction accounts for toll collection.
- Require an annual report to the General Assembly summarizing collected and uncollected toll revenues for the previous fiscal year, projected collected and uncollected toll revenues for the previous fiscal year, and reasons for uncollected toll revenues.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

House OKs Bill to Improve Behavioral Health Care Access

Last week, the House passed legislation that would aim to reduce delays in care for patients with behavioral health needs. [House Bill 1644](#) would create a Medicaid Care Transition Program to ensure hospitals, individual counties, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and managed care organizations communicate and coordinate care. They also would be required to create uniform policies and procedures to assist in transitioning these individuals out of the emergency room and into appropriate care settings where they would get the help they need. In addition, the legislation would require DHS to develop a standardized, timely process for placement of patients statewide who are enrolled in Medicaid and diagnosed with behavioral health or other long-term care needs. It would also implement accountability measures for Behavioral Health Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (BH-MCOs) by holding them responsible for the adequate level of and accessibility to health care they are being paid to provide for Medicaid patients. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.



Bill to Assist Older Foster Youth Passed by House

The House has advanced legislation to help older youths in foster care find more permanent family connections. [House Bill 1866](#) would build on existing state requirements that foster youth receive counseling and other services as they grow older, including the identification of family members who may be willing to assume a primary caretaker or other supportive role. Currently, about half of the state's foster youth "age out" of the system without ever having found permanency with a family, whether through adoption, permanent legal custodianship, or reunification with the youth's family of origin. Youths leaving the child welfare system without having adults in their lives who can help support and guide them during this critical transition time face soberingly high incidences of outcomes such as incarceration and homelessness. The bill now goes to the Senate.



Bill Would Establish Additional Funding Source for Children's Trust Fund

Legislation to establish another funding source for Pennsylvania's Children's Trust Fund (CTF) recently passed the state House. The fund provides grants for programs to prevent child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth. Currently, funds for the CTF are generated by a \$10 surcharge on all applications for marriage licenses and divorce complaints. Donations to the CTF can also be designated on state tax returns and other external sources. However, donations have been declining over the past 10 years. [House Bill 2437](#) would create another stream of funding for the CTF and would allow individuals renewing their vehicle registration or a driver's license to contribute an optional \$5 donation to the CTF. Giving to this fund would not be a requirement, but an option provided to Pennsylvanians who want to help. The bill now goes to



the Senate for consideration.

Remembering D-Day



June 6 marks the 78th anniversary of the Normandy landings during World War II, otherwise recognized as D-Day. D-Day marked the beginning of the final push across Europe to defeat Axis forces during World War II. More than 9,000 allied soldiers were killed or wounded in that battle alone. For a full history on D-Day, [click here](#). I wish to extend a special heartfelt thank you to the men and women who served that day, and our gratitude to those who did not come home. Your legacy is not forgotten.

Fun for All Ages Awaits at PA Fairs



Summer is around the corner, and that means it's also Pennsylvania fair season. From June through September, communities across the Commonwealth will host more than 100 fairs featuring food, fun and entertainment, as well as competitive exhibits highlighting animals, produce, crops, crafts, baking and more. To plan your fair visit, check out the [2022 PA Fair Guide here](#).