



## **News for Immediate Release**

**Nov. 11, 2013**

### **Governor Corbett Announces New Ways for Pennsylvanians to Support and Honor Veterans**

**State College** – Governor Tom Corbett today announced a number of new initiatives to help and support Pennsylvania’s more than 950,000 veterans.

The new programs, legislation and initiatives range from a special new veteran’s license plate and driver’s license designation to the establishment of a Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services.

Corbett discussed the package of programs today, nationally observed as Veterans Day, at the Pennsylvania Air National Guard’s 112<sup>th</sup> Air Operations Squadron in State College, Centre County.

“Days like today serve as reminders of your heroism and the debt each of us owe to those who are willing to lay down their lives so that the next generation of Americans can continue to live in a free country,” Corbett said. “You’ve been there to protect us when we needed it the most. And Pennsylvania is working every day to make sure we repay your service with recognition.”

Thanks to a partnership between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Pennsylvania is now offering a new specialty license plate, “Honoring Our Veterans,” for cars and light trucks up to 10,000 pounds. Fifteen dollars from the sale of each \$35 license plate goes to the Veterans’ Trust Fund.

The Veterans’ Trust Fund (VTF), administered by DMVA, provides funds to assist and support Pennsylvania veterans and their families. The VTF will fund grants to statewide charitable organizations that assist veterans, veterans’ service organizations and county directors of veterans affairs. The fund can assist veterans in need of shelter and with the necessities of living.

In addition to the license plate, Pennsylvanians can make a \$3 tax-deductible contribution to the VTF simply when applying for or renewing a Pennsylvania driver’s license or photo ID, or renewing a motor vehicle registration. Individuals or organizations can also make a tax-deductible grant, gift or donation directly to the VTF.

Joining Corbett today were members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, including The Adjutant General Major General Wesley Craig, Deputy Adjutant General for

Veterans Affairs Brigadier General (Ret.) Jerry G. Beck, Jr., as well as Senator Jake Corman (R-Centre), Representative Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre), Senator Elder Vogel (R-Allegheny), Representative Mark Gillen (R-Berks) and Senator Bob Robbins (R-Mercer).

Also today, Corbett signed an executive order establishing the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans' Services to increase information sharing between commonwealth departments and commissions, coordinate complementary programs, and enhance service accessibility to veterans' benefits within Pennsylvania.

This coordinating council will consist of representatives of the departments of education, public welfare, corrections, probation and parole, labor and industry, drug and alcohol programs, as well as members of the military and veterans' affairs.

"As a former member of the National Guard, one of the best things about being governor is having the opportunity to show our fighting men and women the appreciation they deserve. You each have given so much and set the standard of service that we should all strive for," Corbett said.

In addition, Corbett toured the new Mobile Veterans Outreach Van that now travels throughout the state to assist veterans in obtaining information and initiating benefit claim paperwork. The wheelchair-accessible van can be scheduled in support of community activities, county directors of veterans' affairs, veterans service organizations and other veterans service officers.

The governor also announced today that, by March 2014, persons who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces will be able to obtain a veterans' designation on state driver's licenses or PennDOT photo ID cards.

"The veteran identifier for drivers' licenses provides long overdue recognition for veterans who may not have other military identification," said Corbett. "While participation is voluntary, it will allow veterans to qualify for discounts or other benefits."

For more information about the VTF, visit [www.vtf.state.pa.us](http://www.vtf.state.pa.us) or follow DMVA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/padmva](http://www.facebook.com/padmva) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/padmva](http://www.twitter.com/padmva).

For more information and to get a copy of the application for the "Honoring Our Veterans" license plate visit:

[www.dmv.state.pa.us/license\\_plates/special\\_fund.shtml](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/license_plates/special_fund.shtml).

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