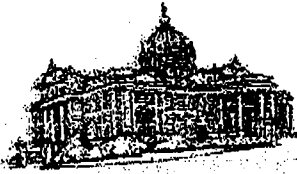


COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LARRY MAGGI - CHAIRMAN  
BRACKEN BURNS - VICE CHAIRMAN  
DIANA L. IREY

(724) 228-6724

## County of Washington



Washington, PA 15301

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April 15, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is intended to be added to the testimony for the PA Senate Hearing on Veterans Affairs.

I begin by stating that I believe that I am a good veterans' service officer. Not a great one since I have only been one for five years. It takes years of experience and lots of devotion to become a great veterans' service officer. A county veterans' director or associate serving as a veterans' service officer must obtain service officer accreditation from the Adjutant General's Office (AGO) or from a nationally recognized veterans' service organization. However, I believe accreditation managed by the Adjutant General's Office should be preferred because they also emphasize state benefits as well as federal benefits.

Every year when I attend the continuing education classes administered by the AGO I learn something new. That is because the federal and state laws regarding some veterans benefits change or new benefits are added. Also, when I attend the yearly conference conducted by the Pennsylvania State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs (PSACDVA) I learn something new. This is because the association endeavors to bring informative presenters of various veterans' benefits to our conferences. County veterans' directors are all striving for the goal of becoming a great veterans' service officer.

Therefore, I would have to state that education is the key to being able to fully serve our veterans. We all know that we have the best military force in the world and once they become veterans they deserve the best service that we can provide for them, or their widows, or their children.

Please contact me at (724) 228-6865 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Serving the veteran,

Harry Wilson  
Director