

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE KERWIN

Winter 2025

## RECOGNIZING SERVICE, SACRIFICE *in Pennsylvania*



### New Law Creates Specialty License Plate

A new, specialty license plate is available for those who served in Operation Inherent Resolve. I authored the legislation that became **Act 36 of 2024** to create the plate.

Operation Inherent Resolve references the military campaign tasked with defeating Islamic State (commonly called ISIS or ISIL) terrorists in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

Applicants must submit a completed MV-150 form to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and provide a copy of the military's Form DD-214 noting service in Operation Inherent Resolve. There is a \$26 fee for most sizes of passenger vehicles. Contact one of my offices if you need assistance.

It is important to recognize the brave veterans who served in defense of American ideals during Operation Inherent Resolve.



### Breakfasts Gather the 125<sup>th</sup> District's Veterans

In November, a few days after I returned from a 10-month deployment to East Africa, I hosted a pair of appreciation breakfasts to coincide with Veterans Day. My thanks to legislative staff for planning the breakfasts while I was away with my Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit.

Veterans Day is an incredibly important time to honor those who have worn the uniform. I'm thankful these annual breakfasts give me time to reconnect with local veterans, all of whom I admire so much.

I will always be a champion for the Commonwealth's

veterans, ensuring they have access to the benefits and resources they earned through military service. Please remember that those benefits often extend to military families, including children who, under new state laws, can be enrolled in school districts prior to established residency and have expanded options for transferring schools.

Contact one of my offices if you need assistance learning about state programs for veterans, and stay tuned for dates of upcoming events.



**Did you know?** Nearly 800,000 veterans make their home in Pennsylvania.



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## Gold Star Families to Receive New Tribute



Gov. Josh Shapiro recently signed my legislation to create a monument on Capitol grounds for Gold Star families who lost a loved one in military service.

He signed **Act 145** (formerly House Bill 71) surrounded by several Gold Star families from the region as well as Brig. Gen. Mark Goodwill, representatives of the Woody Williams and MI Charitable foundations, Department of General Services Secretary Reggie McNeil, and others.

The monument off Commonwealth Avenue will have four granite slabs paying tribute to those grieving the loss of a service member. The memorial is being funded by the foundations, not taxpayer dollars, and we hope to break ground soon.

I have been humbled and honored by my interactions with Gold Star families, who both persevere every day through their grief and work tirelessly to keep the memory of their military members alive.

