

STATE REP. **STEVEN MENTZER**

Serving the 97th Legislative District

BUDGET UPDATE

We're nearly halfway through the fiscal year and the state still doesn't have a completed budget. While the "main" budget bill, also called the General Appropriations bill, was passed in early July, there are a series of "code bills" that are necessary to accompany the budget to help dictate how some of that funding is doled out.

Majority House Democrats did advance both a tax code and fiscal code last month, but I could not support either bill since they would put us in a position of spending money we don't have, which would ultimately lead to tax hikes for our citizens. The last thing people need as they deal with inflation is to send more of their hard-earned money to the government.

One major sticking point in negotiations is the governor's reversal on his pledge to create a small scholarship program to help low-income families in poorly performing school districts send their child to a different school.

AROUND THE 97th DISTRICT



Our Newest Eagle

I had the opportunity to visit with brothers Nate and Ian Young. Nate recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Ian is a second-class scout and one of his requirements to advance to first class was to interview an elected official. Both Nate and Ian are members of Troop 56 in Strasburg.



West Lampeter Fair

I attended the 99th annual West Lampeter Community Fair and we had perfect weather for the beef and dairy cattle shows, the Lampeter-Strasburg High School marching band concert, the barnyard chase and tractor games.

A short video of my day at the fair can be found at RepMentzer.com, under the "Latest News" tab.



\$2 MILLION INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE LOCAL FARMING

In August, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The Hershey Company (Hershey) announced a joint commitment of \$2 million to support Land O'Lakes Member Dairy Farms in Pennsylvania, of which several are Lancaster County dairy farmers.

Among the recipients of these funds is the Central Manor Farm in Washington Boro.

I addressed the assembled audience of stakeholders in this initiative to support clean water, climate and sustainable farming. The event was emceed by Tricia Brannigan, Hershey Chief Procurement Officer.

Also in attendance were Steve Harnish, Land O'Lakes Board Member and Lancaster County Dairy Farmer; Tim Leviny, Land O'Lakes Senior Vice President of Dairy Foods; Adam Ortiz, EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Regional Administrator; Kate Fritz, CEO of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay; U.S. Representative Lloyd Smucker (R-PA-11); Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Rich Negrin; Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster/Berks) and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn.

It is often noted that Lancaster County farming has a huge positive impact at many levels of our economy, but consumers also benefit from having the freshest local produce and other farm goods carried in our local grocery stores.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance), in collaboration with Land O'Lakes Inc., will use funds to promote the adoption of practices that support local and regional environmental goals with dairy farmers in Land O'Lakes' eastern region milk shed.



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*Wishing you and your family the merriest
of holidays and a joyous new year!*

VETERANS BREAKFAST INVITATION

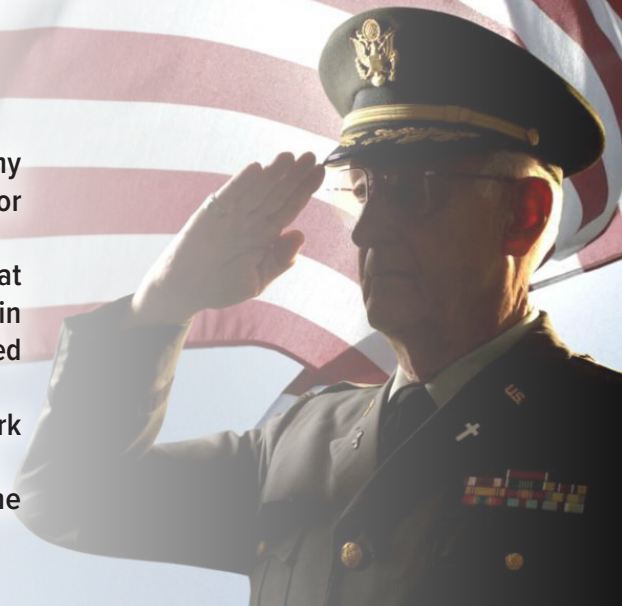
FRIDAY
FEB.
16

Veterans from the 97th District are invited to join my staff and I for breakfast on Friday, Feb. 16 to honor their military service.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. and will be held at the Double Tree Resort, 2400 Willow Street Pike, in Lancaster. Each veteran and their guest will be provided with a buffet-style breakfast.

Joining me on the 16th will be Major General Mark J. Schindler, The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania.

Also on hand, will be representatives from the Lebanon Veteran Administration Medical Center.



**Attendees are asked to RSVP. To do so, please visit
RepMentzer.com/events or call 717-464-5285.**



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