



Senator Tim Schaffer
31st Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

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THANKING THOSE THAT SERVE

BY STATE SENATOR TIM SCHAFFER

COLUMBUS – Beginning in 1919, November 11 has been reserved to honor the service of those who defend America’s liberty. Originally dubbed “Armistice Day”, our first observance of Veterans Day was aimed at celebrating the one year anniversary of World War I reaching its end. Nearly one hundred years removed from that first celebration, we remain blessed to live in a country where so many of our men and women have answered the call to duty.

Perhaps never before have our servicemen and women had to sacrifice so much for so long, as they have in recent memory. For many in uniform, the past decade has been marked by multiple deployments to the Middle East to serve in a war that has been fought on two fronts. In fact, last month marked ten consecutive years that American boots have stood on Afghan soil, and recently, our President announced that all remaining U.S. military personnel would leave Iraq by year’s end – just shy of the war’s ninth anniversary.

As a member of the Ohio General Assembly, I am often visited by members of our armed forces, and the stories and perspectives they share have proven valuable in serving the people of Ohio. Whether it’s a returning soldier fresh off the frontlines or a newly enlisted 18 year old, we can all learn a thing or two by drawing on their experiences both in battle and at home.

In fact, it was after hearing of the challenges faced by some servicemen in the 31st District that I decided to introduce legislation that would grant full property tax relief to Ohio’s disabled veterans. These are the men and women who have paid a very dear price in order to preserve our safety and freedom. Through offering property tax exemption, Ohio will in some small way be giving something back for what they have sacrificed.

I ask that each of you join me this Veterans Day by saying thanks to someone who has served this nation. It has only been through their courage and selflessness that we have been able to enjoy the American life that we so dearly cherish. For that, we are all indebted to them.

reforms, income tax indexing, and stronger penalties on sexual predators. He and his wife reside in Lancaster.