

# Are You the Widow of a Vietnam Vet or Do You Know One?

By Senator Scavello

**PEN ARGYL** - As you know, my office partners with the American Legion to help our veterans obtain the benefits they have earned through their military service. This week, I was made aware of a new focused outreach effort the Legion is conducting in Pennsylvania to find eligible widows of Vietnam veterans who don't realize they are eligible for benefits.

If the veteran served in the Republic of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles off the shore of Vietnam or Cambodia between 1/9/1962 and 5/7/1975 and one of the these conditions caused or contributed to your spouse's death, you may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC is benefit paid by the USDVA and includes monthly compensation and Healthcare coverage.

If after reviewing the information you think you may be eligible, please reach out to my office of choice and schedule an appointment to meet with our American Legion Service Officer Brian Stolar-ski.

Northampton County Office – 610-863-1200

Monroe County Office – 570-620-4326

Also please share this information so that we can reach as many widows as possible! At this time there are only 6 individuals in Monroe County and 18 in Northampton County who are enrolled in this benefit. We know that there are HUNDREDS if not THOUSANDS of widows that may be eligible and just don't know it! PLEASE help me spread the word by sharing this and together let us do the most good we can!!



## Look Out for Holiday Charity Scams

By Senator Scavello

**PEN ARGYL** - Many people are donating to charitable organizations this time of the year, and scam artists prey on this generosity by masquerading as charities and pocketing the donations.

The Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities and Pennsylvania Department of State offer these Red Flags of Charity Scams:

**Similar Sounding Name** — Scammers often use names that sound similar to legitimate charities to intentionally create confusion.

**High Pressure Solicitation** — Fraudsters will try to force a hasty decision by turning up the pressure. They may cold call, identifying you as a previous contributor, and ask for your renewed support or to update your credit card information. These attempts rely on catching consumers off guard to extract financial information.

**100% Guarantee** — Most people want to ensure that their donations are going toward legitimate program expenses. Every organization has some level of administrative cost. An organization that promises 100% of your funds are going directly to an individual in need might require additional scrutiny.

**Donation by Wire Transfer or Gift Card** — Legitimate charities will not ask you to make payment via money order or wire transfer. If you are being solicited for a donation and are asked to pay by these means, hang up immediately. A charity may ask for donations of gift cards, such as from a grocery store, to supply to someone in need. Never read the information from a gift card over the phone or provide it via email.

You can find more tips on charitable giving here. Anyone can contact the Department of Banking and Securities at 1-800-PA-BANKS (1-800-722-2657) to ask questions or file complaints about financial transactions, companies or products.

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