

The Honorable Stephen E. Barrar

Retired PA State House Representative and former Majority Chairman for the Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee

Rep. Stephen E. Barrar retired from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in December 2020, having served twelve terms as a state legislator serving Chester and Delaware counties. He earned a reputation as a dedicated public servant whose foremost concern was the advancement of the 160th District and improving the quality of life for the families of Pennsylvania.

Desiring to keep his close connection with his community, Steve maintained an accessible and responsive district office, which was endorsed by the Delaware County Daily Times for its effectiveness in assisting citizens. His highest priority was serving exclusively as a full-time representative and getting results for the citizens of the 160th District.

Steve is a champion of those who risk their lives to preserve our way of life and protect our communities, Steve advocated for policies to aid community first responders, veterans, and active duty and reserve military personnel. Having served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, Steve understands the sacrifice and reward that comes with taking the ultimate risk to safeguard our communities and our country.

His close ties with the veterans and first responders of his district led to his appointment as majority chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee in 2010. Steve vowed to use this post to improve the everyday lives of veterans and assisted the Commonwealth's struggling volunteer emergency service providers.

Along with his efforts to aid veterans, military personnel and first responders, Steve also gained a reputation as an outspoken opponent of government corruption, taking on unethical judges, individuals and groups allegedly involved in voter intimidation, and organizations that use state money for political purposes. He gained statewide recognition for his outspoken opposition to the questionable activities of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) and ultimately helped bring about the demise of the organization.

Among his many legislative victories, Steve is proudest of helping to gain passage of legislation to reauthorize, expand and increase funding for Pennsylvania's grant program that aids fire companies and ambulance organizations. He is also proud of his efforts to see Pennsylvania's veterans preference laws better enforced now that state law requires one of the three members of the Pennsylvania Civil Service Commission to be a veteran. Finally, his House Bill 728, which will help increase safety at self-service fueling stations, was signed into law as Act 144 of 2012.

His legislative priorities for the 2019-20 session included:

- Finalize into law legislation that modernizes the Title 35 Emergency Management Code
- Address the funding, personnel, and training needs of Pennsylvania's fire and EMS organizations through the implementation of Senate Resolution 6 initiatives
- Create or enhance programs for our veterans and their families

- Update archaic provisions regarding our National Guard when they serve on state active duty and enhance the National Guard College Tuition Assistance Program
- Establish a program to address the post-traumatic needs of our emergency responders
- Secure funding for Pennsylvania's National Guard Youth Challenge Program

His experience as a small business owner has given him a unique insight into how state government can assist employers in bringing on additional workers, which will help to turn our economy around. Economic recovery and job growth remain at the forefront of Steve's legislative agenda.

Steve is a graduate of Interboro High School. He is an active member of his community and is involved in several local groups, including the Chichester Business Association, Chadds Ford Business Association, Aston Business Association, Bethel VFW Post, and the Concord Lodge No. 625. He also has been named an honorary member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for his support of disabled veterans. Steve has received honors from many groups and associations, and his awards include:

- National Guard Association of the United States, Charles Dick Medal of Merit
- Fireman's Legislative Federation 2012 James Baird Legislator of the Year Award
- 2014 Recipient of the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association "Standing with Nurses" Award
- 2012 Legislator of the Year award by the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania.
- 2011 Legislator of the Year award by The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association
- The President's Award for Public Service from the Burn Foundation
- Recognition of Appreciation from the Delaware County Community College
- Legislator of the Year from the Pennsylvania Transportation Management
- Association for his effort to promote cycling to work and bicycle safety
- Four-time recipient of the American Enterprise Award from the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce.
- The Legion of Honor from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains
- A Humanitarian Award from the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association
- The Kay F. Thompson Outstanding Legislator Award from the Pennsylvania Dental Association
- The William Wikoff Smith Award from the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild

Steve and his wife, Elena, have two daughters, Stephanie Toth and Elizabeth Barnett. He is the proud grandfather of Ethan, Caden, Ainsley, Elena Jane and Lucy Katherine.