

# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

Ohio House District 14

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December 2023

*Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights, and  
Cleveland's West Park Neighborhood!*

Dear District 14 Resident:

Last month we honored our military veterans on Veterans Day. As you may know, in 1938, following World War I, Congress created Armistice Day to honor our veterans of the Great War on 11-11, the date in 1918 when the armistice was signed ending the hostilities at 11:00 am. Later, in 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the law changing the holiday to Veterans Day to honor all of our nation's military veterans.

Also, last month I had the distinct honor of being invited to attend the Parma Area Senior Veterans group's Veterans Day Tribute at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. The room was packed with what I estimate at over 200 veterans, their friends, family, and supporters. Founder and Administrator Tony Kessler, his wife Shirley, and their volunteers put together a very moving and fun event. In fact, there were many tributes to our veterans, as well as entertainment provided by Parma's very own *Italian Cowboy* Harry James.

I was very honored (!) to receive a certificate of appreciation, along with Mayor Timothy DeGeeter and WEWS Channel 5 News Anchor Rob Powers. As Mr. Kessler brought me to the podium, read, and handed me the beautifully framed certificate, I was literally brought to tears and expressed how deeply humbled I was and how my grandpa, who served during Korea, would be so proud. Our certificates read, "For your above and beyond continued support of our Military Veterans and their families. Thank you from a grateful U.S. Veterans Community and from a Grateful Parma Area Senior Veterans." Channel 5 captured some of the event, which can be watched at the following websites:

[news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/we-take-care-of-veterans-here-parma-group-works-to-help-socialize-veterans](https://news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/we-take-care-of-veterans-here-parma-group-works-to-help-socialize-veterans)

[news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/news-5s-rob-powers-honored-for-your-service-series-at-veterans-tribute-day-in-parma](https://news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/news-5s-rob-powers-honored-for-your-service-series-at-veterans-tribute-day-in-parma)

I want to thank all of our military veterans for your selfless service – you deserve our thanks every day. As a proud husband, father, Ohioan, American, and American History teacher for three decades, I truly appreciate your sacrifices for me, my family, our state, and our nation. It is an honor to serve you as your state representative. May God bless our veterans, their families, and our entire community during this very sacred time of year.

Sincerely,

**Sean Patrick Brennan**

State Representative, District 14  
77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Website:  
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## State Representative Brennan Supports Military Veterans Funding

As a state representative in my first term, I proudly supported the funding items list here which directly benefit Ohio's veterans, all of which passed this past summer.

### **Funding for Veterans' Organizations**

*These funds are provided to each organization for the purpose of assisting veterans and their dependents identify and claim benefits to which they are entitled.*

- \$45,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.5% increase) - American Ex-Prisoners of War
- \$85,000 (2024 and 2025: 13.3% increase) - Army and Navy Union, USA, Inc.
- \$85,000 (2024 and 2025: 13.3% increase) - Korean War Veterans
- \$62,000 (2024 and 2025) - Jewish War Veterans
- \$85,000 (2024 and 2025: 13.3% increase) - Catholic War Veterans
- \$85,000 (2024 and 2025: 13.3% increase) - Military Order of the Purple Heart
- \$310,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.7% increase) - Vietnam Veterans of America
- \$450,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.5% increase) - American Legion of Ohio
- \$450,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.5% increase) - AMVETS
- \$450,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.5% increase) - Disabled American Veterans
- \$214,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.6% increase) - Marine Corps League
- \$17,000 (2024 and 2025: 13.3% increase) - 37<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans Association
- \$450,000 (2024 and 2025: 12.5% increase) - Veterans of Foreign Wars

### **Funding for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services**

- \$48,972,000 (2024: 16% increase); \$51,374,000 (2025: 4.9% increase)
  - Funding for the operation of the two state veterans homes (Sandusky and Georgetown)
- \$105,000 (2024); \$112,000 (2025) - Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame
- \$4,794,000 (2024: 25.9% increase); \$4,837,000 (2025; 0.9% increase)
  - Helping to connect veterans and their families with benefits, assisting county veterans service commissions and offices, managing 1.9 million electronic military discharge records.
- \$1,560,000 (2024 and 2025: 19.2% increase)
  - Additional Veterans Long Term healthcare Needs and Support for Ohio's veterans homes
- \$4,995,000 (2024 and 2025) - Veterans Compensation General Obligation Bond Debt Service for \$83.9 million in obligations issued for Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq compensation purposes.
- \$55,800 (2024 and 2025: 61.7% increase) - Military Injury Relief Program (Provides a one time, tax-exempt monetary payment of \$500 to military service members injured in active service as a member of the Armed Services of the United States and to individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress while serving after October 7, 2001.
- \$1,000,000 (2024 and 2025: 164.7% increase): State Opioid Response - Expands services for veterans home residents identified with a history of opioid use, stimulant use, and/or mental health disorder using veteran trained peer recovery supporters.
- \$125,000 (2024 and 2025) - Sports gaming fees dedicated to funding veterans programs.
- \$65,000,000 (2024) - Veterans Homes Modernization
- \$229,024 (2024; 96.7% increase); \$205,643 (2025) - Veterans Bonus Program -Administration
- \$4,770,976 (2024; 1092.1% increase): \$4,794,357 (2025)
  - Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Bonus Compensation
- \$936,491 (2024: 10.2% increase); \$963,333 (2025) - Veterans Training

## Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Announces \$4.16 Million Award to Parma Schools

COLUMBUS - **State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma)** has announced that the Parma City Schools have been awarded a \$4,116,570 Career Technical Construction Program grant from the state of Ohio. The Ohio schools selected for the grants were awarded nearly \$200 million to help expand career technical educational and training facilities to serve more students.

“One of the gems of the Parma City Schools is their career tech program. Program director Kristen Plageman and her team have put together a top notch program that leads to students leaving high school with the skills necessary to immediately enter the job market. In fact, they have received very high marks in every category of the state report card. These funds will go a long way in making their program even stronger. I could not be prouder!”

59 schools throughout the state applied for funding with 35 being selected in a competitive selection process. The Parma City School District will use the funds to expand their auto collision and carpentry programs. It will provide the students with state-of-the-art facilities in which to learn and hone their skills. The Parma City Schools offer a robust catalog of career technical education choices for students, including culinary arts, cosmetology, medical professions, carpentry, auto collision, business/computer skills, digital media creative arts, biotechnology, networking/advanced computers, dental technologies, medical professions, cooperative marketing management, and engineering.



State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan presents certificates of commendation to Normandy High School Career Technical Education (CTE) Department Chairs, Culinary Arts teacher Chef Iann Johnson and Medical Arts teacher Terri Morgan, as well as students from the Medical Arts program. The Parma City Schools CTE program earned very high marks on the 2023 state report card.



Recently, I collaborated with the Ohio Channel to produce an information set of videos, entitled “*A Few Minutes with Rep. Brennan.*” The intention of the series is to educate residents on my work on your behalf, as well as to educate viewers about their state government. You can view them on my website at: [ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan](http://ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan)





## State Rep. Brennan Announces Teacher and Student of the Month Program

COLUMBUS – **State Rep. Sean Brennan (D-Parma)** today announced the launch of his student and teacher of the month program. Residents of **Rep. Brennan’s** district are encouraged to nominate a deserving K-12 student or teacher who either resides, learns, or teaches in the district, which includes Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland’s West Park (approximately from West 130th Street to Rocky River Drive, north to Lorain Road).

“I created this program because there are young people and teachers doing great things in our schools every day. These individuals are worthy of recognition by the community and I want to play a part in making that happen. In fact, I encourage everyone to find ways to recognize great kids and teachers,” said **Rep. Brennan**.

This program is very special to **Rep. Brennan** who was a public school social studies teacher for three decades. **Rep. Brennan** and his office will blindly select a winning student and teacher (or counselor, teacher’s assistant, intervention specialist, paraprofessional, etc.) each month. The winners will receive an official commendation from **Rep. Brennan’s** office, as well as, a gift card to a local business.

To nominate a student visit [tinyurl.com/brennanstudent](http://tinyurl.com/brennanstudent), and to nominate a teacher visit [tinyurl.com/brennanteacher](http://tinyurl.com/brennanteacher). For questions, contact his office at 614-466-3485 or [Rep14@OhioHouse.gov](mailto:Rep14@OhioHouse.gov).



## State Rep. Brennan Supports Legislation to Protect Ohioans From Rising Property Taxes

COLUMBUS – The Ohio House of Representatives recently passed House Bill 187 - the Ohio Homeowners Relief Act. State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma) was one of three Democrats who supported this legislation which will protect Ohioans by modifying the procedures used to calculate property valuations.

“Property values have gone up dramatically over the past few years. I voted to support HB 187 in committee and on the floor to ease the rising property tax burden facing homeowners, many of whom are on fixed incomes, which is one of my top priorities” State Representative Brennan said.

The bill will require county tax commissioners to work alongside local elected officials to weigh the past three years of a county’s property values in order to determine property tax, instead of just one.

In addition to the Ohio Homeowners Relief Act, Rep. Brennan co-sponsored House Bill 33, the Ohio state budget, which included a provision to automatically increase Ohio’s Homestead Exemption to combat inflation, providing further property tax relief for elderly Ohioans and disabled veterans.

The Ohio Homeowners Relief Act has been sent to the Ohio Senate for further consideration.



## Governor DeWine Orders Flags at Half-Mast in Honor of Congressman Mottl

Back in January, soon after Governor Michael DeWine and I were sworn in, I wrote a note to the Governor expressing what an honor it was to serve with him and how I looked forward to working with him. In return, the Governor sent a note back thanking me and inviting me to call him if I ever needed anything. What an honor it was that he included his personal cell phone number. I have only called that number twice. Once to make him aware that \$200 million in foodbank assistance from the state had not been distributed in a timely manner. Within days, low-and-behold, Lisa Fugitt, Executive Director of the Ohio Foodbanks Association, called me to tell me that the dollars has been dispersed. The next time I called him, I asked if he would consider flying the flags at the Ohio Statehouse at half-mast in honor of Parma’s own Congressman Ronald Mottl. I am happy to report that on November 15, he did so. These are good examples to illustrate how working across the aisle does occur and leads to good outcomes when elected officials work together in good faith.