

## **November 19 Rep. Ohnstad Report**

Veteran's Day always means several great local events. The first of these was the Kenosha County Veteran's Celebration which keeps getting bigger and better every year. Kenosha Veterans Services Director Ali Nelson always does a great job with this event and is a great resource for veterans experiencing problems with any number of issues. Ali can be reached at the Kenosha County Division of Veterans Services at 262-605-6693.

I was proud to attend two events at the American Legion Post 21. The first was a radio show on WLIP ahead of the holiday where I was joined by Representative Tip McGuire and Senator Bob Wirth and the second was on Veterans Day where several elected representatives gave a tribute to our veterans. Later that day I was pleased to attend the Vietnam Veteran's event at Library Square.

With these events in mind it is shameful to learn President Trump was diverting millions of dollars in donations from his "charity", which were to go to veterans' charities, for his personal use. He was recently found guilty of that and ordered to repay two million dollars. Closer to home, it is also disgusting that millions of dollars, which have already been budgeted and approved in the Assembly last June to go to a number of homelessness agencies, have not been released by the State Senate. Meanwhile, it has been estimated there are 350 homeless veterans in Wisconsin.

There were several meetings in the district this past month. Among them included meetings with Society's Assets, a group of Kenosha clergy members, and the Kenosha Unity Coalition. I also attended the Annual Pasta benefit for the Shalom Center. Another highlight of the month was the Dedication of the Student Atrium at Gateway Technical Institute for Arthur F. Mahone, who played such a positive role in Kenosha and whose great work lives on through the Mahone Foundation.

I was happy to speak at the State UAW/CAP Conference in Kohler, along with Governor Evers and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, who also spoke at the event.

It has also been a relatively busy month in Madison. Four of the five Committees I serve on met this month, Jobs & the Economy, Ways and Means Workforce Development, State and Affairs all held Public Hearing, Informational Hearings and/or Executive votes on bills this month. The Assembly also had two floor periods. During the first day Democrats asked to take up two common sense bills

regarding gun safety. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership refused to even have a conversation about either one.

I am pleased, however, to report two bills which I was the lead Assembly author on were passed unanimously. The first bill will make it far more likely that when a wetland has to be remediated as a result of new development it will be done in the same area where the development happens. Currently, wetlands mitigation requirements are often met by a developer paying money to a fund administered by the DNR or through work that happens far distances from the site of a development. This could potentially mean a wetland could be created in Superior to offset a project in Kenosha. The bill also makes it quicker for a developer to recoup their costs of remediating a wetland. This bill has now passed in both houses and awaits the Governor's signature.

The second bill would regulate public insurance adjusters to help avoid the "storm chasers" who can sometimes be unscrupulous in their practices of resolving claims. Hopefully this is taken up by the Senate and signed into law. I am glad to have successfully worked on these two bills and voted for several others this month. However, I am disappointed we have not taken up many issues important to Wisconsinites like the rising costs of prescription drugs, the dark store loophole, student loan debt, and medical marijuana to name a few.

I would like to wish everyone a great Thanksgiving, and as always, encourage you to contact my office with any problems you might have regarding state issues or if you have a criticism or suggestion. You can contact me by calling (608) 266-0455 or by email at [rep.ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov).