

Submitted
For Recor
only

SPEECH ON BILL #466

WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO BE HERE TODAY, HELLO EVERYONE, MY NAME IS PAUL W. LA CURTS, AND I GREET YOU ALL IN THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERLY LOVE.

I AM HERE TODAY TO SPEAK ON BILL # 466. BUT, FIRST LET ME GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND ABOUT MYSELF. I JOINED THE U.S. ARMY WHEN I WAS 19 YEARS OLD, AND SERVED 11 YEARS IN THE COMBAT ARMS BRANCH. I AM A TRAVELLING MAN, AND I HAVE BEEN AROUND THIS WORLD A COUPLE OF TIMES, AND EVERY COUNTRY THAT I HAVE VISITED. I MADE IT A POINT TO LEARN OF THEIR CULTURE AND, TRY THEIR LOCAL FOODS.

WHILE IN THE ARMY I LOVED MY SOLDIERS, AND THEY LOVED ME, WHY? BECAUSE, YOU LEARN TO BECOME A FAMILY REAL FAST IN COMBAT ARMS!

NOW, SPEAKING OF THE WHOLE MILITARY FORCE, WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER AS ONE TEAM, THEY ARE UNSTOPABLE!

WE AS ONE TEAM CAN ALSO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN TAKING BACK OUR STREETS FOR THE CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIAN. IN WHICH WE ARE ALL SORN TO PROTECT AND SERVE. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T IF WE ARE ALL HERE IN HARRISBURG FIGHTING EACH OTHER. THE SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTIES ALREADY POSSESS COMMONWEALTH POWERS (IF PROPERLY TRAINED). ALL WE ARE ASKING IS FOR IT THE BE PLACED IN STONE. BECAUSE, ONE DAY THE AUTHORITY IS HERE AND THE NEXT IT IS GONE. THERE ARE, A LOT OF COUNTIES WHO DEPEND ON THE SHERIFF FOR PROTECTION.

GETTING BACK TO MYSELF AGAIN, WHEN I WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY. I BECAME A POLICE OFFICER; MY HIGHEST AWARD WAS A POLICE OFFICER'S PURPLE HEART. I ALSO RECEIVED MADD AWARDS TO NAME A FEW.

NOW, I AM A DEPUTY SHERIFF SERVING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA. UNDER SHERIFF JOHN P. DURANTE. MONTGOMERY COUNTY IS ABOUT 50 MINS SOUTH OF THE VALLEY OF ALLENTOWN AND, 25 MINS WEST OF PHILADELPHIA.

OUR SHERIFF IS A RETIRED COUNTY DETECTIVE. ONCE, WHEN A COUPLE OF BOROS LAYED OFF 5 OF IT'S JOUNOR POLICE OFFICERS, (WITHIN OUR COUNTY BECAUSE OF BUDGET DIFFICULTIES), OUR SHERIFF HIRED THEM. THE REASON I USE THIS EXAMPLE IS, IT SHOWS A FAMILY WORKING TOGETER. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH NORRISTOWN BORO POLICE DEPARTMENT. BECAUSE, THEY ARE GREATLY UNDERSTAFFED.

OUR SHERIFF DEPARTMENT HAS A PATROL SECTION, WE ASSIST NORRISTOWN IN HELPING TO PATROL THEIR BUSINESS DISTRICES, and WE ALSO HAVE A C.E.R.T., *Dy7* WARRANT/CRIMINAL SECTION, A BOMB UNIT WHO IS TRAINED BY THE F.B.I., K-9S, AND CIVIL SECTION. WE LOVE TO HELP AND PROTECT OUR CITIZENS. HOWEVER, WITHOUT THIS BILL# 466 BEING PASSED, WE WOULD BE JEOPARDIZING THE SAFTY OF OUR COMUNITIES. BECAUSE, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO LETS SAY, AN OFFICE DOWN CALL. EVEN IF WE JUST DROPPED OFF A PRISONER, AND WERE CLOSE AT HAND. THIS COULD SAFE AN OFFICER LIFE!

I INFORMED YOU EARLIER, HOW I LOVED MY TROOPS WHILE I WAS IN THE ARMY. NOW, I LOVE TO TRAIN THESE NEW DEPUTIES FRESH OUT OF OUR FINE ACADEMY. THERE ARE OTHER DEPUTIES IN OUR DEPARTMENT WHO TRAIN. THEY ARE RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS WHO ARE DEPUTIES NOW! WE ALSO HAVE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS. A

LOT OF US WORK PART TIME JOBS BECAUSE, OUR PAY IS NOT AS GOOD AS SOME POLICE DEPARTMENTS. BY THE WAY, WE LOSE A LOT OF OUR DEPUTIES TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS. THERE IS A PIECE OF THE PIE MISSING, AND WE ARE THAT PIECE. IF THE SHERIFF AND, POLICE COMMISSIONER OF PHILADELPHIA COULD WORK TOGETHER, WHAT A DIFFERENCE THAT WOULD MAKE. A MAJOR CITY IN CALAFORINA TOOK BACK THEIR STREETS WORKING TOGETHER, SO CAN PHILADELPHIA! LET ME ASK YOU TO PICTURE YOURSELF AS THE ONLY POLICE OFFICER ON DUTY IN YOUR JURIDITION.(THIS IS A REALITY FOR SOME POLICE ACROSS THIS COMMONWEALTH). THEN YOU RECEIVE A CALL FROM YOUR DISPATCHER TO RESPOND TO A LOCAL BAR, FOR LARGE CROWD FIGHTING, SHOTS FIRED, PEOPLE INJURYED. THIS WAS A REAL INCIDENT FOR ~~me~~ me!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD BE THINKING LIKE MYSELF. BUT, I WOULD BE CALLING FOR THE NEAREST BACK UP UNITS ARRIVABLE. I WOULD NOT CARE WHO THEY WERE AT THIS POINT IN TIME. I WANT HELP AND I NEED IT NOW! IF YOU TIE OUR HANDS WE CAN DO VERY LITTLE TO HELP.

SO, THIS IS THE REASON I HAVE COME TO HARRISBURG TODAY. TO SEE IF WE CAN REACH A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION BY PUTTING OUR MINDS TOGETHER, TO BETTER PROTECT AND SERVE THIS GREAT COMMONWEALTH OUR OURS!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.
GOD BLESS, AND BE SAFE OUT THERE.