

The Honorable Lisa Baker
Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Inducted 2014

When inducted into the Hall of Fame, Senator Lisa Baker was serving her second term representing the 20th Senatorial District, which includes parts of Luzerne, Monroe, and Susquehanna counties and all of Pike, Wayne, and Wyoming counties. Numerous community organizations and projects have benefitted from her involvement, including business development and job creation efforts, library expansions, senior housing initiatives and recreation programs. Working along with county and municipal officials, she has helped to secure essential funding for sewer and water system upgrades, transportation priorities and intergovernmental cooperation efforts.

In Harrisburg, Senator Baker chaired the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and is a member of the following committees: Aging and Youth, Appropriations, Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, Game and Fisheries, and Public Health and Welfare. Her dedication to Pennsylvania's veterans is evidence by her work to secure funding for veterans' outreach and support programs and her efforts to establish the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund to help needy veterans and their families. She has also advanced numerous bills to assist our deployed servicemen and women and veteran-owned businesses.

Her commitment to emergency services personnel produced an expanded grant program for fire and ambulance departments, added protections for emergency medical workers through the Good Samaritan Act and the modernization of the EMS code. Senator Baker also led the push for changes to the laws and procedures governing the juvenile justice system, in the wake of widespread corruption in Luzerne County. She also joined a bipartisan effort to strengthen Pennsylvania's child protection laws by sponsoring a bill to ensure that more cases of abuse are reported.

In order to ensure a balance between community growth and rural homeownership and protection of our specially designated watersheds, Senator Baker championed a law to support the continued use of on-lot septic systems. Her focus on responsible natural gas drilling standards and safeguards to protect public health and the environment has resulted in greater water protection measures and improved well site safety.

Senator Baker also worked to create a state disaster assistance program to extend grants to those hardest-hit by flooding and other natural disasters, and promoted legislation to improve pipeline safety through increased inspections, investigations and enforcement. She has also assembled a working group to address the many challenges facing our volunteer fire companies.