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## **Governor Wolf Signs Stolen Valor Bill into Law, Protecting Benefits for Veterans**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Governor Tom Wolf today signed the so-called stolen valor bill into law, protecting benefits for Pennsylvania veterans.

Act 9, House Bill 168, was introduced by Representative Rick Saccone, and prohibits the fraudulent representation of military service or military decorations to obtain money, property, or other benefits.

“This new law makes it a crime to impersonate a soldier, a veteran of the armed services, or a recipient of a service medal or decoration in order to gain access to benefits, resources, or job opportunities that we set aside specifically for those who have heroically served our country,” Governor Wolf said. “This legislation is incredibly important because Pennsylvania has the fourth-largest veteran population in the country and it is our duty to be certain that benefits for those veterans are available to those who have earned them.”

“An individual commits this crime if they intend to benefit by fraudulently presenting themselves as a member of the armed services and/or the recipient of a military award,” Rep. Saccone said. “Criminalized behavior would range from lying to receive veteran or health care benefits to fraudulently obtaining preference in a government contract or a job reserved for a veteran.”

Senator Tony Williams introduced stolen valor legislation in a previous legislative session.

Members of the Pennsylvania National Guard were present for the signing held in the Capitol Reception Room.

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