

Boscola Announces Over \$200,000 in Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools

By Senator Lisa Boscola

Bethlehem (June 3, 2026)- Senator Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh/Northampton) announced today that \$207,832 in state funding has been awarded to three nonpublic schools in Northampton County through the FY 2025-26 Targeted School Safety for Nonpublic Schools Grant Program by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

"It's absolutely essential to ensure that our schools are safe places for children to learn and develop and these state grants will allow these schools to enhance their efforts to provide a safe learning environment," Boscola stated. "This funding of over \$19 million statewide is further proof that assisting our schools to better provide a safe learning environment for our children and our educators continues to be a Commonwealth priority."

The following grants awards were approved for schools in Northampton County:

- Bethlehem Catholic High School \$68,000
- Moravian Academy \$64,832
- Notre Dame High School \$75,000

Section 923.3-A. of the Public School (Act 14 of 1949) provides for School Safety and Security Enhancements for nonpublic schools. That section declares that "(t)he welfare of this Commonwealth requires that all school children should be afforded the opportunity to attend a school that is safe and secure. It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that all of this Commonwealth's nonpublic schools are afforded opportunity"

PCCD approved 353 of the 395 eligible applications submitted through the FY 2025-26 Targeted School Safety for Nonpublic Schools Grants Program totaling \$19,356,596, subject to resolution on outstanding programmatic or fiscal concerns.

Warren County's Fire Marshal Retires After Lengthy Career

By Art Charlton

WHITE TOWNSHIP, NJ – Warren County Fire Marshal Joseph F. Lake, Jr. was honored by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners as he retires from a career in public safety of more than five decades.

Lake, a seventh-generation Hackettstown resident, has served as Warren County's fire marshal since January 2002, starting that job after a 30-year career with the New Jersey State Police. A State Certified Fire Inspector, Lake has been an expert witness in the field of fire investigation. He also has been active in the Hackettstown Fire Department for more than 54 years, serving in Fire Chief positions from 1992-1995 and as the town's Deputy Fire Marshal in 1996 and 1997, as well as on the Fire Prevention Bureau from 1975-1997.

"There isn't enough we can say to thank and we are going to miss you greatly," Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla said as the commissioners issued a proclamation honoring Lake and his lengthy record of exemplary service.

"As the longest serving commissioner, it's been my privilege to serve with Joe Lake and know that Warren County is always in such great hands with him as fire marshal," Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski said. "It's no surprise what a distinguished life Joe has led, he honored this county with his service. Joe, his experience and work ethic will be missed," Sarnoski added.

"Joe Lake, you are an example of what public service is all about, giving back to your town, county, state, and country. You are an inspiration, and I am thankful to have served with you," Commissioner James R. Kern III told the honoree, who received a standing ovation from the meeting room packed with family, friends, fire chiefs and other well-wishers.

Lake was visibly moved by the expression of gratitude and support. "I'm blessed to have worked with all these firefighters," he said, adding, "They're the best volunteers. It's been a pleasure working with everyone here."

A veteran of the United States Army, Lake did a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1968-69, serving in the First Cavalry Division's 11th Pathfinder Company, Team 227. He earned two Bronze Stars, one with a V for Valor under fire, the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and South Vietnamese Army Airborne Jump Wings, among other commendations, and was honored with the Warren County Distinguished Military Service medal recognizing service during wartime in 2007.

His State Police career included serving as Assistant Supervisor of its Arson Unit, receiving the NJSP Certificate of Commendation and the Meritorious Service Award, and retiring with the rank of Lieutenant. He also served in the NJ National Guard from 1983-1993.

Lake was an integral part of the committee that brought to fruition the Warren County Emergency Services and 9/11 Memorial, which is located on the access road to the Warren County Public Safety complex in Franklin Township. He served as master of ceremonies for the annual Patriot Day observances held there.

Married since 1970 to Beatrice "Janet" Lake, they are the proud parents of three children and have seven grandchildren.



Fire Marshal Joseph F. Lake, Jr., third from left, receives a proclamation honoring him on his retirement after a career of more than five decades, the past 24 with Warren County, from Warren County Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski, Commissioner Director Lori Ciesla, and Commissioner James R. Kern III.