



Happy Veterans Day Weekend!

This Veterans Day we honor the brave men and women who have served faithfully to protect the freedoms we so greatly enjoy.

Veteran's Day first began as Armistice Day, which marked the end of World War I. President Woodrow Wilson commemorated the very first Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, proclaiming the holiday be a reflection of solemn pride in the country's armed forces. As such, the meaning of Veteran's Day is always one of significance, and provides Americans with the opportunity to show our appreciation to our military veterans for their faithful and dutiful service to our country.

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Committee Week 4

This past week in Tallahassee, the Senate **Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government** met to learn more about critical environmental and agriculture issues facing our state. Drew Bartett, Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District, reported that the district has been working to expedite 29 key restoration projects identified in Governor DeSantis's Executive Order 19-12 to restore the Everglades and restore water quality. This includes projects that reduce pollutant discharges from Lake Okeechobee like the Kissimmee River Restoration, Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration, Dispersed Water Management and Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area. Other projects that are underway to increase flow south of Lake Okeechobee include the EAA Reservoir and the raising of the Tamiami Trail.



Florida Citrus Mutual reported on challenges facing the Florida citrus industry, including damage to groves from hurricanes, invasive pest and diseases and increased imports. There have been advancements in implementing Citrus Research and Field Trials (CRAFT) that are guiding the future of Florida citrus and its expansion. The Florida Legislature appropriated \$6.4 million for the Citrus Health Response Program and \$8 million for Citrus Research, in the 2019-2020 Budget.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) also presented on the status of the State Hemp Program. During the 2019 Session, the Florida Legislature authorized the establishment of a state hemp program and rule making with the passage of SB 1020. DACS is currently developing those rules and they expect to have the rules established by then end of 2019. You may view these presentations at FLSenate.gov.

The **Environment and Natural Resources Committee** met to consider the following bills: [SB 178](#) prohibits state financed construction projects in coastal areas without first conducting a sea level impact projection study. [SB 326](#) requires local governments to address the contamination of recyclable material in their collection contracts. [SB 332](#) requires \$100 million to be appropriated annually to the Florida Forever Trust Fund. [SB 200: Advanced Well Stimulation Treatment](#) bans hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking. All bills were reported out of committee favorably.

The **Health Policy** Committee met for a presentation on the implementation of the Prescription Drug Importation Program by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed legislation for certain state agencies to source lower priced prescription drugs on the Canadian and international markets. The program does require federal approval. AHCA Secretary Mary Mayhew reported that the US Department of Health and Human Services announced that it will pursue rules to allow states, like Florida, to pursue drug-importation programs, but that it may take up to two years to complete. AHCA will be searching for a contractor to carry out the state's new Canadian drug-importation program and hopes to have them on board by spring 2020.

Members also considered the following bills: [SB 66](#) provides that the failure to repay a state or federal student loan, or comply with scholarship obligations could not be grounds for disciplinary action against a health care practitioner. [SB 348](#) removes the lifetime maximum cap of \$1 million on covered expenses for a child enrolled in the Florida Healthy Kids Program. [SB 402](#) would amend statutes governing the state's assisted living facilities, such as allowing new devices to be used and clarifying how facility staff should help administer medication to residents. All bills were reported out of committee favorably.

The **Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee** met to consider the following legislation: [SB 88](#) requires child care facility vehicles be equipped with an approved alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for the presence of children before leaving the area. [SB 124](#) grants courts more authority and flexibility in establishing and terminating orders granting "temporary" or "concurrent" custody of a child to an extended family member. [SB 354](#) provides an additional subsidy of up to \$300 for foster care parents who place their foster children in an early education or child care program. [SB 400](#) authorizes elder abuse fatality review teams to review closed cases of fatal incidents of elder abuse, and make policy and other recommendations to help prevent future incidents of elder abuse-related fatalities. All bills were reported out of committee favorably.

The **Appropriations Committee** met for a presentation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein on Everglades restoration efforts and the protection of water resources. The Secretary highlighted the Legislature's historic investment of \$686.8 million to protect Florida's environment and improve water quality in the 2019-2020 budget. He reported that \$413 million has been allocated toward Everglades Restoration, \$100 million toward springs protection and restoration, and \$10.8 million to environmental accountability and agency transparency efforts. DEP is also investing significant resources provided by the Legislature in targeted water quality improvements, alternative water supply, and innovative technologies and research.

This funding has allowed the Department to meet the accelerated permitting schedules for restoration projects required by Governor DeSantis's Executive Order 19-12. The Department has removed many obstacles to accelerating project implementation, but are still slowed in many instances by permits needed from the Army Corp of Engineers. Florida has requested to take over the Clean Water Act 404 wetland permitting process, but that is still under review by the EPA. You may watch this presentation at FLSenate.Gov.

Legislation Update

This past week I **sponsored** the following legislation:

[SB 712: Clean Waterways Act](#) is a comprehensive statewide initiative that addresses significant sources of pollution to our treasured waters including leaky septic systems, outdated water treatment infrastructure, sanitary sewer overflows and stormwater. This bill revises Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) requirements, increases notification requirements for sewage spills, and establishes a 50% matching grant program to encourage local governments to connect septic tanks to sewer systems; construct, upgrade or expand wastewater facilities; or retrofit existing septic tanks for improved performance. This legislation also requires Water Management Districts to include design and performance standards that increase nutrient removal from stormwater discharges in all new development and redevelopment projects.

[SB 672: Cancer Coverage](#) Patients with Stage 4 Metastatic Cancer do not have time to wait months or even years to access treatment. This legislation will remove obstacles to treatment, like step-therapy or fail first protocols, which require patients to obtain numerous approvals from insurers to receive medications including trying and failing on inferior medications first. SB 672 will ensure physicians, rather than insurance companies, make the determination on the best course of treatment for their patients fighting this devastating disease.

[SB 666: Florida Development Finance Corporation](#) (FDFC) increases transparency and accountability of the FDFC through increased reporting requirements and reorganization of their governing board and staff. This bill also establishes a sunset provision for the agency.

[SB 696: Prescription Drug Coverage](#) provides additional consumer protections to patients and improves reporting and transparency. This bill requires a 60-day notice be issued to the patient, and their healthcare provider, prior to any change to their prescription drug formulary during a policy year. Physicians may also seek continuation of a prescription drug that was taken off a formulary by certifying that it is medically necessary for their patient. The bill prohibits an insurer or HMO from reclassifying a drug to a more restrictive tier, increasing the cost-sharing of the insured, or reclassifying a drug to higher cost-sharing tier during the policy year. Finally, this legislation requires insurance companies and HMO's to record all changes in its formulary during the policy year. A report must be submitted to the Office of Insurance Regulation at the end of each calendar year, and will be shared with the Legislature for review.

[SB 826: Marina Evacuations](#) prohibits boats under 500 gross tons from remaining in a marina, that is located inside a deep water port, when a hurricane watch or warning is issued. This will prevent damage that may be caused to other vessels or port infrastructure during a hurricane.

I also **co-sponsored** the following legislation:

[SB 670: Smoking on Public Beaches and in Public Parks](#) which would allow counties the ability to restrict smoking within the boundaries of any of their own public parks or beaches. This legislation would also prohibit smoking within the boundaries of a state park.

C-44 Stormwater Treatment Area Activated

This past week I joined Governor Ron DeSantis and the South Florida Water Management District to celebrate the completion of the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) for the C-44 Reservoir Project. While at the celebration the pumps were turned on so that STA Cells 1, 2 and 3 could begin filtration processing.



"These are the first gallons of water pumped into this major environmental restoration project that plays a huge role in giving us a cleaner, healthier St. Lucie Estuary," said Governor DeSantis. "We must do more now for our environment to reduce harmful discharges to the coastal estuaries and improve water quality, and this treatment area will play a major role in accomplishing both goals. We will continue to expedite critical Everglades reservoir projects like the C-44 Reservoir."

This project captures local basin runoff and Lake Okeechobee releases, allowing harmful nutrients that fuel harmful algal blooms to filter out before being discharged into the St. Lucie Estuary. The reservoir will ultimately store 50,000 acre-feet of water. The completion of this project will greatly improve the health of the St. Lucie Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon.

District 17 Highlights

Events Celebrating Our Veterans

Brevard County

- Today, **November 10th** from 1:00pm - 5:00pm the American Muscle Car Museum is hosting a free Open House for Veterans, Active Duty Military and their families. They will also be giving away some incredible prizes. Active Duty Military personnel that attend could win a \$10,000 cash prize or a paid 2-year lease of a 2019 Audi A3. Many other special prizes will be awarded to Veterans that attend. The American Muscle Car Museum hosts a private collection of more than 250 muscle cars in a 123,000-square-foot solar powered building near the Melbourne Greyhound Park. The Museum hosts many charity functions, but is not open to the general public. A special thanks to Mark Pieloch and his wife, Tetiana, for their generous support of our veterans and military families!
- Today, **November 10th** the National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) organization is hosting the [2nd Annual Veterans Day 5K](#) and after party at Hell 'n' Blazes Brewing in Downtown Melbourne. The race benefits NVHS in its mission to eliminate homelessness among veterans in Central Florida.
- **November 10th-11th** the Brevard County Zoo will be offering complimentary general admission for Active Duty Military and Veterans. If the service member is deployed overseas, the zoo will admit their spouse at no charge.
- Monday, **November 11th** at 9:00 AM the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center will be hosting their annual Veterans Day Ceremony to honor our active duty military members and veterans. Located at 400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island.
- Monday, **November 11th** at 10:00 AM the Veterans Day Parade will be held in downtown Melbourne. The parade will start on Melbourne Ave., then head west to New Haven Ave., ending on Oak Street at the Liberty Bell Musuem. Following the parade, the public is invited to attend a cookout at American Legion Post 163, 1795 N. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

- Thursday, **November 14th** from 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM the Melbourne Combat Veterans Center will be hosting a Veterans Ceremony and Resource Expo. Located at 2098 Sarno Rd, Melbourne.

Indian River County

- Monday, **November 11th** at 8:45 AM the Veterans Council of Indian River County will be hosting their annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in Vero Beach's Riverside Park. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place at Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center.

Indian River County Breast Cancer Screenings

When it comes to Breast Cancer, regular screenings and early detection can save lives. For the second year in a row, free breast exams and free mammogram screenings are being offered to women and men of Indian River County by Helping Hands of Indian River County.

The collaborative was initiated last year by Dr. Daniela Shapiro of Indian River Hematology & Oncology and Victor Basile, Director of Hope Imaging at Indian River MRI, to increase access for breast exams and screenings.

Exams are being offered to women and men of any age, with or without insurance, on Saturday, November 16th from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Indian River Hematology & Oncology Center (1460 36th St, Vero Beach). For more information please visit IndianRiver.FloridaHealth.Gov.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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