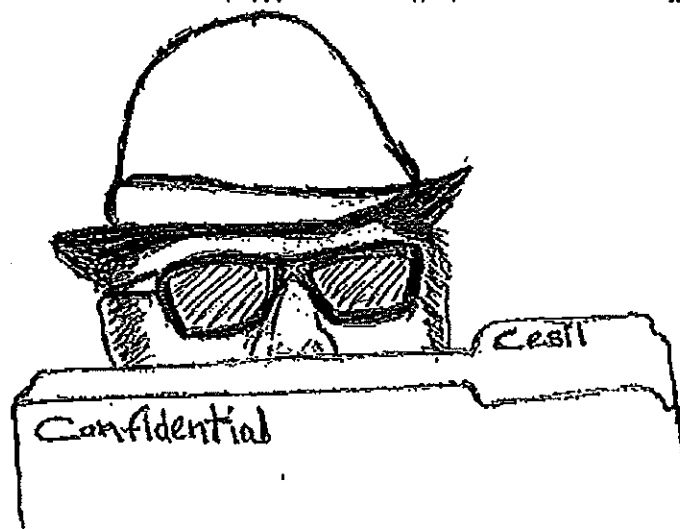


# Luzerne County

P E N N S Y L V A N I A

**CESIL**

***Offers a Helping Hand  
and Gets Results !!!***



**Michelle A. Bednar  
County Controller**

Veterans Affairs administers a variety of benefits and services that provide financial and other forms of assistance to Service members, Veterans, their Dependents and Survivors.

### Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied by him/her as a principle dwelling, provided that as a result of wartime military service the veteran has a 100% service connected disability rating by the U S Department of Veterans Affairs; that such dwelling is owned by him/her solely or with a spouse ( an estate by the entirety ) and the FINANCIAL NEED for exemption from payment of real estate taxes has been determined by the State Veterans Commission. Upon death of the qualified veteran, the exemption passes on to the unmarried surviving spouse if the need can be shown.

The Luzerne County Controllers Office was contacted by a representative of the Luzerne County Veterans Affairs Department with a possible issue for our CESIL initiative to investigate.

We were told there was a possibility that a qualified veteran and/or their qualified widow (widower) could be deceased, and that the Real Estate Tax Exemption could still be applied to their property if it remained unsold by the heirs.

In an effort to isolate any potential instances where the exemption was still in place on a residence that no longer qualified, staff from the Controller's Office canvased approximately 450 records. Those records were subjected to internet resources, identifying 18 properties, of which was determined that the Veteran and/or their spouse had expired.

The information we provided allowed the Veterans Affairs Department to update their records thereby insuring that only those properties that fully comply with the program remain exempt from the Real Estate Taxes.



Michelle A. Bednar

Luzerne County Controller