Special Guest - Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce will host its 2018 Legislative Reception on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. This year’s reception will be held in the Grand Hall of the West Virginia Culture Center. The event will be held from 4:30pm - 6:30pm.

Our special guest at this year’s Legislative Reception will be Mr. Hershel “Woody” Williams. Woody Williams is a native West Virginian who currently resides in Ona, WV. He is one of four living Medal of Honor Recipients from World War II, and the only surviving recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima. He is active in numerous veterans causes and is currently leading the effort to erect Gold Star Families Memorial.
Monuments around the country. The story of his actions on Iwo Jima can be viewed here.

In addition to Mr. Williams, **over 400 are expected** to attend and include members of the West Virginia Legislature, Executive Branch, business leaders, higher-education leaders, economic development professionals, and local chambers of commerce. This is the place to be for **special music, special foods** and **special guests**! If you have not yet registered for this event, be sure to click the link below. We look forward to seeing you on the 30th.

Register Now!

House Judiciary Committee advances bill requiring 100 single-member districts

Yesterday afternoon the West Virginia House Judiciary Committee advanced HB 4002, a bill that requires 100 single-member House of Delegates districts following the 2020 census.

West Virginia is one of only ten states that currently use multi-member legislative districts, and one of only two (New Hampshire being the other) that has districts in excess of three members.

HB 4002 was passed out of the Judiciary Committee on a voice vote, though an earlier motion by Delegate Andrew Robinson (D-Kanawha) to table the bill was defeated on a party-line vote.

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce has long championed requiring 100 single-member districts for the House of Delegates, as these districts increase government accountability and enhance the principle of 'one person one vote.' The bill now moves to the full House of Delegates for further consideration.

Bill to Pay Off Career and Technical College Students' Tuition Balance Introduced in Senate
Senate President Mitch Carmichael (R - Jackson) and Senator Roman Prezioso (D - Marion) introduced SB 284 yesterday in the West Virginia Senate on behalf of Governor Justice. If passed, the bill would pay off a career and technical college student's tuition balance after all other financial aid options have been exhausted.

President Carmichael cited the success of a similar program in Tennessee as a model and spoke of the importance of passing this legislation. Dr. Sarah Tucker, the Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education in West Virginia has said the program would cost the state an average of $800 per student.

The bill received strong bi-partisan support in the Senate upon its introduction. It will first be taken up in the Senate Education Committee.

Candidate Filing Underway - Open Until January 27 at Midnight

Candidate filing for the 2018 Elections is underway at the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office. Offices on the ballot include one United States Senate seat, all three U.S. House of Representatives seats, 17 of 34 seats in the West Virginia State Senate, and all 100 seats in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

In addition to Congressional and Legislative races, numerous county and municipal offices will be on the ballot. The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is closely monitoring the candidate filings and would not that several key races appear to be taking form.

For more information on how to file for office, please click here.
TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF ANY BILL
CLICK THE BILL NUMBER

**SB 100** --- Taxing digital goods, products and services

**SB 269** --- Establishing 2018 Regulatory Reform Act

**SB 272** --- Relating generally to drug control

**SB 273** --- Reducing use of opiates

**SB 284** --- Increasing access to career education and workforce training

**HB 2379** --- Providing a special method for valuation of certain wireless technology property for property taxes

**HB 4002** --- Providing that all delegates shall be elected from one hundred single districts following the United States Census in 2020

**HB 4005** --- Clarifying that appeals to the Supreme Court are a matter of right

**HB 4009** --- State Settlement and Recovered Funds Accountability Act

**HB 4013** --- Clarifying venue in West Virginia state courts as it applies to nonresidents of the state

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