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House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Today, I'm announcing that I will not seek reelection to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and at the end of the 2019-2020 legislative session I will retire. I plan to vigorously represent the people of the 127th Legislative District until my final day in the House. The reality is I will be 78 years old by the time my term ends and with time to reflect recently while battling some health issues, I've decided it's the right time for the next generation of leaders to step up and lead Reading into the future.

I love this City and its people, we made it through a lot of change over the past 44 years. Since 1977, I've had the honor of representing Berks County and the City of Reading in Harrisburg. I stood before my friends, neighbors and community 22 straight times and earned their vote. In fact, my very last election victory was one of my most lopsided, winning 81% of the vote in a hard-fought contest.

I am forever grateful, humbled and thankful, I earned the trust and confidence of my friends and neighbors through the good times and the bad. I served under 12 different Speakers of the House, nine Governors and there have been nearly 900 different members of the House during my tenure. No matter the victories and defeats I was engaged in battle longer than anyone in the history of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

I found the longer you serve the more friendships you develop. Many times, during my career, my political obituary was written but thanks to the people who know me best we survived and thrived together. I championed many legislative proposals during my tenure that made Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and raise a family.

I'm immensely proud that I was able to bring billions of dollars in state funds back to Reading, West Reading and Kenhorst. I swell with pride when I drive through West Reading knowing I brought the funds home to revitalize it, I went to bat for funding to rebuild the City viaduct, replace all

bridges leading into the City, redevelop Skyline Drive and the Fire Tower, build new parking facilities and I was the prime sponsor of the law that allowed the construction of the Santander Arena.

Moreover, the funding I was able to bring home for the Reading School District has put the District on a winning path. In fact, one of my proudest moments in the Legislature came in 2017 when I hosted the State Championship Reading High Boys Basketball team in the House Chamber. I've been a determined advocate for seniors, children, the disabled, organized labor, veterans, law enforcement and our furry friends.

I have had many legislative victories, including, being an original sponsor of the PACE and Property Tax Rebate programs benefitting seniors, the first to pass legislation to providing state funding for pediatric cancer research, and I successfully pushed legislation to require de-escalation training for police when interacting with intellectually disabled or autistic citizens. I lead the fight to provide pensions to state and local police and I stood up to protect dogs from abuse. I got legislation passed to provide the poor with access to justice and I'm responsible for the bill that allows us to use our driver's license as proof of ID to buy spirits.

I've introduced thousands of bills and resolutions and I've had hundreds passed. I always did my best to represent the citizens of my district and the Commonwealth. The seniority and experience I was able to amass gave me the clout needed to get things done and I had a front row seat to every major development in the Legislature for over four decades. I chaired impeachment proceedings, led numerous committees, including the powerful House Judiciary Committee, and sometimes I made politically unpopular decisions that made me a target of my own party.

I'm proud to have friends from all walks of life and all political persuasions. I ran for public office to help my community and I hope I served them well. I want to thank everyone who made it possible for me to serve and those who supported me throughout this journey. I feel especially blessed for the many excellent staffers who supported me and served the community over the years and I couldn't have done it without their love, support and guidance.

I hope when people remember me and my career in the legislature, they remember I was always willing to compromise for the best interest of the Commonwealth and that I put pragmatism above politics.

God Bless the 127th Legislative District and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Caltagirone
Representative
127th Legislative District