



Tom Stevenson (R-Mount Lebanon)

Pennsylvania
Is The
Key
To Unlocking
Nan's Law
Nationwide



Nan Toder

What Happened To Nan Toder?

- On December 13, 1996, **Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania** native **Nan Toder** was brutally murdered as she slept in the Hampton Inn in Crestwood, Illinois.
- At time of her tragic death, Nan Toder was a vibrant young woman who taught aerobics part time and worked out regularly.
- In fact, she had ordered a 5:30 wake-up call from her hotel room so she could work out on December 13, 1996. Unfortunately, this vital, physically fit young woman never got that chance.
- Nan was also very cautious. She placed her suitcases behind her room door and latched the door to the adjoining room.
- **But it was not really latched.**
- The murderer entered the room next to Nan's with a master key, and opened the adjoining room door which he had "fixed" in Nan's absence. He attacked Nan with a machete and strangled her to death.
- After six years, the murderer was found guilty of her murder in first degree. He now serves a life sentence with no parole.
- **The murderer was the hotel's maintenance manager.** Many facts were brought out in the trial concerning the hotel's complete lack of guest protection: NO security cameras, no enforcement of night management duties, deactivated door alarms, inadequate and untrained guards.
- This man was known to the local police for harassing girlfriends. His former employer suspected him of a major burglary. The Hampton Inn's manager even recounted to police that the murderer told her he liked to pull the wings off birds to watch them die, and throw cats into wood chippers.
- **Most** troubling of all the murderers' background was never checked, despite the fact that he had the master key to every guest room and access to the hotel computer.



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Nan's Law Will Provide Even Less Room At The Inn For Convicted Criminals

- Pennsylvania's already tough Inn Keepers Rights Act, protecting lodging operators against non-paying customers, illegal guest activities and damages caused by unsupervised children could get even tougher.
- Working directly with the Toder family, **Representative Tom Stevenson** wants to honor Nan's life by introducing legislation to make Pennsylvania' hotels safer, particularly for women traveling alone.
- Supported by violence prevention groups such as the **National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.**, "Nan's Law," would require hotels to do conduct employee background checks to help prevent future tragedies and could even help insurers of hotels reduce their claims by making guest protection requirements a condition of coverage.
- Furthermore under this provision, lodging operators would be free to use this information to decide whether or not to hire any potential employee according to applicable Pennsylvania employment.
- Hotel guests want to feel well cared for, with perks like free breakfasts and complementary shampoo. But safety and security are unspoken expectations.
- Currently, that level of safety and security simply does not exist anywhere in America.
- Already nicknamed the Keystone State, Pennsylvania is the key to unlocking **Nan's Law nationwide.**



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Hotel Safety Check List

- All too often in our nation's war against crime we do not utilize all the tools that are available to us to help reduce the amount of crime and victimization that occurs.
 - In many instances, most crimes are just plain preventable.
 - Just like in Nan's case, individuals who were previously incarcerated are often freed to commit new crimes, many times these new crimes are murder.
 - Therefore it makes sense that honest, law-abiding citizen's check into hotel or motel to maximize our personal safety, especially for women traveling alone. The following checklist is designed specifically for that purpose:
1. Was an inexpensive background check done on employees who have guest room keys?
 2. Are deadbolt locks in place on all room doors including adjoining rooms?
 3. Are surveillance cameras active on exterior exit doors?
 4. Are security alarms on all exterior exit doors (excepting main entrances)?
 5. Are those entering main entrances in sight of an employee at all times?
 6. Is there a specific employee in charge at all times?
 7. Are guests able to phone a specific number in case of an emergency?
 8. Ask, write or fax your hotel/motel or travel agent for answers to all of these life-preserving questions.
 9. Most importantly, demand an answer – it's your money and your life!



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Representative Tom Stevenson

Rep. Tom Stevenson represents the 42nd Legislative District in the South Hills of Allegheny County consisting of the all of the Municipality of Mount Lebanon, part of Scott Township, part of the Borough of Bethel Park and all of the Boroughs of Green Tree, Rosslyn Farms and Thornburg.

Now in his fourth term as a lawmaker, Stevenson has already seen several bills he has sponsored become law, including two during his successful freshman year. An attorney and businessman, Stevenson has translated his concern for people into an impressive record of community service. Stevenson served for seven years as a Mt. Lebanon Commissioner before his election to the House. He also served as a board member and State Legislative Chair of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and was a Board Member of the South Hills Council of Governments.

Tom was a board member for Outreach Teen and Family Services, Inc. and still serves on their Advisory Board. Tom is also a Board Member of The DePaul Institute and AC-ACLD Inc./an Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities. After a brief hiatus, he was asked to return to the board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Western Pennsylvania Chapter. He is an honorary member and past-president of the Mt. Lebanon-Dormont Sunrise Rotary Club.

A lifelong resident of Mt. Lebanon, Tom is a graduate of Mt. Lebanon High School, Penn State University and Western New England College School of Law.

Stevenson recently became chairman of the House Ethics Committee, which advises members and staff on ethical questions that public officials encounter in their service and investigate any complaints that may arise. He is also a member of four House standing committees. He is Secretary of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee and is a member of the Education, Local Government, and Urban Affairs committees. He is also a member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, the Subcommittee on Second Class Townships and Counties, the Sportsmen's Caucus, the Firefighters' and Emergency Services Caucus, the Autism Caucus and the Penn State Forum.

Tom and his wife Roberta make their home in the Markham School area of Mt. Lebanon. They are the parents of Tom Jr., age 24, and Bethany age 21.