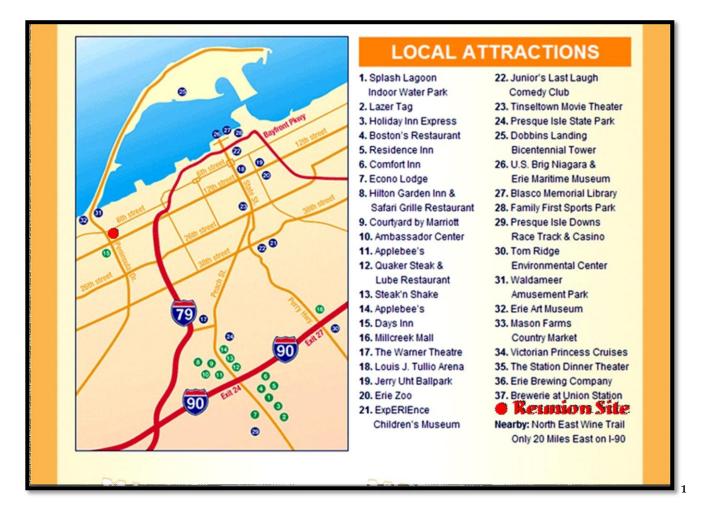
# ERIE, PA ATTRACTIONS AND FACILITIES



## ALL ATTRACTIONS IN THE ERIE PA AREA

http://www.visiteriepa.com/major\_attractions.shtml

### TOM RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



http://www.trecpi.org/

Tom Ridge is best known as the first United States Secretary of Homeland Security (2003–2005).

Ridge was born in Munhall, Pennsylvania, in Pittsburgh's Steel Valley, the oldest of three children. His parents were Laura (née Sudimack) and Thomas Regis Ridge, who was a traveling salesman and Navy veteran. Ridge's maternal grandparents were Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants[3] from the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source : Internet Site: Scott Enterprises, <u>http://www.erieinns.com/motorcoach.html</u>

former Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia), and his paternal great-grandparents emigrated from Great Britain. Ridge was raised in veterans' public housing in Erie, Pennsylvania. He was educated at St. Andrews Elementary School and Cathedral Preparatory School and did well both academically and in sports. He earned a scholarship to Harvard College, where he paid his way through with construction work, played intramural baseball and football, and graduated with honors in 1967.



After his first year at the Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the United States Army, where he served as an infantry staff sergeant in B/1/20<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal Division) during the Vietnam War in November, 1969. He earned the Bronze Star for Valor, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, and the Combat Infantryman

Badge. Later, he was offered a commission as an officer but turned it down when he learned that it would require an extra year of service.

After returning to Pennsylvania, he completed his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree at the Dickinson School of Law, graduating in 1972, and entered private practice.

He became Assistant District Attorney in Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1980 and prosecuted 86 cases in two years. In 1982 he successfully ran for a seat in Congress from northwestern Pennsylvania, and was re-elected six times. Ridge was notable as the first enlisted Vietnam combat veteran elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. As of 2009 Ridge has never lost an election for public office

## **Erie County Historical Society**

http://www.eriecountyhistory.org/

#### GHOST STORY ABOUT 'MAD' ANTHONY WAYNE

http://www.eriecountyhistory.org/audio/ECHS\_MadAnthony.mp3

## ERIE ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

https://www.eriezoo.org/Default.aspx

## FLAGSHIP NIAGARA/ERIE MARITIME MUSEUM

http://www.eriemaritimemuseum.org/

# **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS & CASINO**

http://www.casinoinerie.com/home/