



Wayne man completes his quest against gerrymandering

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By Pete Bannan

Thirty-nine days and 1020 miles after setting out on a snowy April morning, pushing a jogging stroller west along Lancaster Ave., Paul Mathison returned to Wayne Monday evening from the east.

Mathison ran around the entire state as an effort to draw Pennsylvanians' attention to the upcoming redistricting effort created by the 2010 census figures and the loss of one representative in the U.S. House. He seeks openness, transparency and the logic of compact, homogenous, un-gerrymandered districts from which Federal and state legislators can be fairly elected.

He ran the equivalent of a marathon every day, pushing the 65 pound jogging stroller loaded with camping gear- which he never used- over the mountains to Pittsburgh, then Erie, then east again.

Along the way he encountered Pennsylvanians, bears, members of the press, and trucks hauling Marcellus Shale gas equipment.

"I understand they'll have a beer here shortly so my priorities are correct," Mathison declared as he reached the Wayne war memorial, the spot he started his odessey. "It's good to be home."

Mathison said that people were welcoming in small towns and large cities. "I met a lot of folks along the way and got the message out. Folks were very receptive."

Check mainlinemedianews.com for a more in depth interview with Mathison later this week.



Paul Mathison stands in front of the Wayne war memorial following the completion of his 1,000 journey.
Photos/video Pete Bannan