



HONORING THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

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President's Report

Your help and financial support during the last two years has allowed Patriot Park to become a special place where the sacrifices of millions of men and women who answered the call to duty after 9/11 and fought to keep us free and safe are honored and the 7054 who made the ultimate sacrifice are forever remembered.

On May 28, sixth graders from Conemaugh Township Middle School visited Patriot Park. Yesterday, I received a letter from their class. It read in part, "Thank you for

the wonderful visit. It was an honor to listen to the Veteran speaker. We were very humbled by the visit." They voted unanimously to donate \$50 to Patriot Park! YOU have made it happen, and it is having an impact on those who visit.

THANK YOU! – Randy Musser



FLAG PLANTING: On May 4 and 5, volunteers planted over 7000s flag to reestablish the Field of Heroes Flag Display for the 2023 season. On Thursday, High school students and their advisors from Somerset County Technology Center and North Star, Shanksville Stonycreek and Shade Central City school districts worked through cold and wet conditions to plant over 6000 flags on Thursday. The rain that had been forecast all week miraculously took a four-hour break while the students were working and the wet conditions provided soft soil allowing for ease in planting the flags. On Friday, the sun came out and another group of volunteers completed the planting. The park opened on Saturday, May 6.

Blue Star Memorial Plaque installed

On May 16 members of the Somerset Garden Club and Patriot Park volunteers installed a Blue Star Memorial Plaque at Patriot Park.

The Club purchased a flowering dogwood tree and many flowers to beautify the site. Musser Construction provided manpower and a mini-excavator to aid with the installation. A special thank you to the Garden Club for all their support.



We are always in need of volunteers ... for grounds keeping, flag repair, and clerical work, as well as greeting visitors on weekends and helping with special events. Honor those who served by sharing your time and talents at Patriot Park!



Memorial Ceremony

Over 100 people attended the 2023 Memorial Ceremony Sunday, May 28 at Patriot Park. They were inspired by the music of Gold Star Dad Dave Gettings, the Bellwood Community Choir and the keynote address provided by Global War on Terrorism veteran Earl Granville.

A new storyboard honoring the fallen from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard 28th Infantry Division, 2nd Brigade, 109th Regiment. These men were truly citizen soldiers, typical of the many men and women who were call to active duty during the Global War on Terrorism. We must never forget their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families.



Photo by Tina Haydu

Pictured are Earl Granville, Randy Musser, Gold Star Dad Bill Evans and Robert Sembower.

Mark your calendars and enjoy these upcoming events & additions to the park

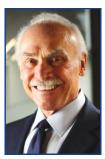


Tunnel to Towers Benefit Concert

Patriot Park will host a concert to benefit Tunnel to Towers (T2T) on Friday, July 14. The concert is free but donations to T2T will be accepted throughout the evening. The concert will feature the **Flight 93 Memorial Chorus** and **Touch of Brass**. Both groups will be doing some patriotic music as well as other fan favorites. The concert begins at 7pm. Forbes Trail Brewery mobile tap will be on site for the event. The concert is on the grass; bring a lawn chair or blanket. The Veterans & Athletes United Fallen Heroes Memorial Flag will be at the Park July 6-July 31.

Fundraising Dinner features Rocky Bleier

Patriot Park Foundation will hold its first benefit dinner Thursday, August 10. We are honored to have as our keynote speaker former Pittsburgh Steeler great **Rocky Bleier**. The event will be held at the Freisland Event Center located at 2536 Ridge Road, Hooversville, PA.



The event will be catered by Joey Del's. Tickets are \$100 per person and can be obtained by mailing a check to Patriot Park Foundation. Please indicate the number of tickets and names of those attending. Reservations must be placed no later than July 24. For information, email patriotparkfoundation@gmail.com

Humvee to be added to the Park

Patriot Park Foundation has received a Humvee donated by GovPlanet.com. Many thanks to Jason Svonavec for reaching out to them or our behalf. GovPlanet.com graciously agreed to donate a unit located at the company's yard at Chambersburg, PA. Jason again came to the rescue and provided hauling.

The Humvee was delivered to Somerset County Technology Center where Steve Toth and his automotive students worked hard to clean it up the few short weeks before school was dismissed. It will be moved to the Park in the next few weeks.

This Humvee is demilitarized but otherwise is like the vehicles used by our service men and women in Iraq

and Afghanistan. Stop by for a look.

