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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

May 17, 2024

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Recognizing Memorial Day

It is just a fact that we may associate the words *Memorial Day* with the beginning of summer, a day off work, family picnics, the pool, the beach, parades, cemetery flags, blooming flowers, deviled eggs, and potato salad. There is certainly no harm in those positive associations. If you are from Adams County the Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade, which is one of the oldest such parade/programs in the nation, is etched into your brain. This is especially true if you were a grade schooler at Meade School about 60 years ago, required to march in the parade from Meade School to the National Cemetery, and strew flowers in the National Cemetery as a marked day of school attendance. That evening my family would drive through the National Cemetery to see all the colorful flowers and then head out to the Twin Kiss on Emmitsburg Road, located just before the Peach Orchard, for a twist cone and frosted mug of root



beer. Those are great memories!

It is also important that we take a few moments of reflection to consider the fundamental reason Memorial Day was created.

Originally called *Decoration Day*, it was formalized by a Memorial Day Order issued by Grand Army of the Republic Commander-in Chief John A Logan in 1868. The modern proclamation called on Americans to observe Memorial Day by praying, according to their individual religious faith, for permanent peace. It is meant to be a somber day to honor those veterans that have passed. The practice of strewing flowers has been documented from Classical Roman times to western Europe in the nineteenth century. In 1873, New York became the first state to officially recognize Memorial Day.

Running continuously since 1867, the Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade & Program takes place Monday, May 27 at 2PM and concludes at the Soldiers National Cemetery with a touching and solemn Memorial Day ceremony taking place in the cemetery. Working for the National Park Service for 30-years, I had the pleasure and privilege of being an active facilitator and participant in that event every Memorial Day. It was certainly a special day! I hope that each of you combine the true meaning and pleasures of Memorial Day for a wonderful and meaningful holiday weekend!

Volunteers Needed to Place Veterans Flags at Oak Lawn

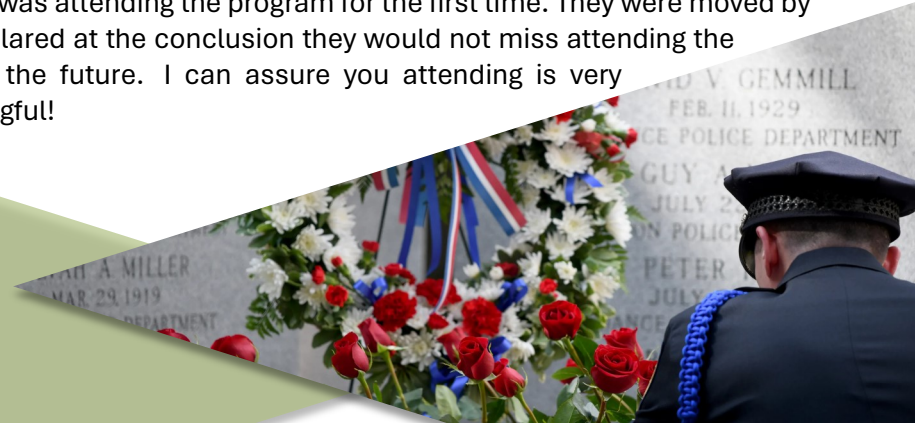
Volunteers are needed to place the 600 Veterans Flags at Oak Lawn Cemetery this Sunday at 1PM. Rain date is Tuesday May 21 at 6PM. Placing of the flags for Memorial Day is always a poignant experience, but placement at Oak Lawn has special significance given its difficult history over the last decade and struggle to survive. These new flags will fly as a testament to the service of our veterans buried there, and as an added benefit it is I can assure you that it is personally very rewarding.

If you, your family, or group can participate please contact volunteer coordinator Cindy Shultz at sleepyholloowghostwalks@comcast.net or call her at 717-357-9684. A reminder to bring a screwdriver to help the cause. – but as wet as it is with a forecast of more rain hard ground may not be a problem at all!

Adams County Fallen Officer Memorial a Poignant Tribute

Last Friday, it was again my honor to attend the Adams County Fallen Officer Memorial at the Adams County Office of Emergency Services. The program is really a tribute to not only law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in Adams County since the 1920's, and within Pennsylvania this past year; but really recognizes all the men and women in blue and gray, who put on their uniform and equipment belt each day to serve and protect the community.

Guest speaker Lanie Weigand, a recent high school graduate and daughter of Latimore Township Police Sgt. Michael Weigand, provided a moving perspective as a family member who lost her father as a 3-year-old. I sat beside one individual that was attending the program for the first time. They were moved by the program and declared at the conclusion they would not miss attending the program in the future. I can assure you attending is very meaningful!



Congratulations

NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

Congratulations to 3 Adams County staff members who completed the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy this past month.

- **Kierstyn Green, Chief Deputy Treasurer**
- **Kelly Yates, Probation Officer**
- **Ron Kriel, Probation Officer**

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an extensive 12-week online program designed to empower front-line county government professionals with fundamental, results-oriented leadership skills. We admire and salute your dedication and motivation gaining additional skills to better serve our organization and our community!

Master Gardener Opportunity

Buzz, Blooms, & Beyond is a well-attended program that the Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program volunteers provide to our community to promote education about pollinators. The *Pollinator Open House* is August 10, 2024, 9AM – 12PM at the Adams County Ag Center extension gardens on Old Harrisburg Road. For more information or to sign up contact Donna Scherer, at 814-409-7978 or dks14@psu.edu

Adams County & Court Announce 2025 Holidays

In order for the County calendar to be prepared in a timely manner, the County & Court announce the holiday schedule 6-months in advance. This posting is always a staff favorite! The following 2025 Holiday schedule was approved at the Commissioners public meeting on Wednesday.

Thank You & Best Wishes Denise Smith

At Wednesdays public meeting the Adams County Board of Commissioners recognized Domestic Relations General Clerk Denise Smith for over 24 years of continuous service upon her retirement. Denise's service included 19-years of service at the "Adams County Home." Denise was presented by Judge Simpson and received an ovation from those assembled. She thanked her colleagues and received a retirement plaque with a gift. Thank you and best wishes in your retirement Denise!

Public Meeting Proclamations

The Adams County Board of Commissioners was privileged to recognize two outstanding organizations at our May 15 public meeting for their contribution to our community. *Emergency Medical Services Week* observed May 19 - 25 was represented by Department of Emergency Services Director Warren Bladen and members of AREMS. *National Travel and Tourism Week* observed May 19 - 25 was represented by Karl Pietrzak and Carl Whitehill from Destination Gettysburg.



PA House Advances Pre-Canvassing Bill for Counties

Counties have been pleading for the ability to pre-canvass write in ballots prior to election day. All sides seem to agree this makes a whole lot of sense; but both sides of the legislature have been unwilling to run it as a stand-alone bill because of attachments or lack of attachments. Well finally On May 1, the House of Representatives advanced HB 847, sponsored by Representative Scott Conklin (D-Centre), which expands the ability of counties to pre-canvass all mail-in and absentee ballots up to 7 days prior to election day. This change would enhance election administration without compromising security and is a top priority issue for counties this year.

There are many areas of Act 77 that need clarification by the General Assembly and administration to help counties fulfill their responsibilities in election administration. However, this simple, rational, commonsense change by itself would give counties more time to prepare mail-in and absentee ballots for counting and would help manage workloads and resources, ensuring timely availability of results.

Counties hope the narrow focus of this bill will encourage the Senate to act quickly to move the bill as currently written to the Governor's desk so that it can be implemented for what promises to be a high turnout, high profile General Election in November.



The End

- **160TH Battle of Monocacy Civil War Reenactment.** Daniel Lady Farm. This Saturday & Sunday. Gates

open 9AM. Battles, demonstrations, sutlers and living history. Family event. Adult \$25 Child \$10.

- **Roads To Gettysburg.** Adams County Historical Society. Saturday 11AM. By the time of the civil war 10 roads intersected the town of Gettysburg. Historian Tim Smith discusses how this led to the armies clashing at Gettysburg. Free to the public.

- **Pennsylvania German Kitchen Gardens.** Strawberry Hill. Saturday 1PM. PA Master Gardener Alice Zepp discusses the purpose, design and bounty of these gardens. \$10. Strawberry Hill, Mount Hope Road, Fairfield.
- **Community Day & Grand Opening of Gettysburg Bus Tour Center.** Sunday 11AM-2PM. Complimentary picnic, free bus rides, discount coupons, musical entertainment, and a raffle for overnight stays and more! Free to the community!
- **176ers Dueling Pianos.** Lincoln Social Food Market. May 25 6PM-9PM. High energy all request show. \$10 cover.
- **Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival.** Today through Sunday. Granite Hill Camping Resort. Nationally acclaimed musicians.
- **Gettysburg Outdoor Antique Show.** Lincoln Square. Saturday 7-4. Presented by Retail Merchants Association.
- **Gettysburg Garden Club Spring Plant Sale.** Saturday. Gettysburg Fire Department rear parking lot. 8AM-1PM.
- **Music Gettysburg Tenor Eric Fennel.** This Sunday. Seminary Chapel 4PM. Free to the public.
- **This Is My Country Concert.** Sunday, May 26. Gettysburg Choral Society. Guest bugler Jari Villanueva. Seminary Chapel 3PM. Free to the public.
- **Family Day at the Spangler Farm.** Saturday, May 25. George Spangler Farm & Field Hospital. 10-3. Featuring living history and civil war encampments.
- **One Hundred Nights of Taps.** May 27 – September 2. Soldiers National Cemetery. 530—700.

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!