

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE CAMPS.....

Several National Officers, including National President James Borkey, traveled to Orrstown Camp 645 on April 21 for the annual Oyster Fest! Good food and good fellowship was had by all!



World War II Days at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum at the Reading Airport was a success. It was held on June 2-3-4. (photo, right) Many people visited the POS of A informational stand that day!



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Traveling Bible Meeting

Brothers representing Camps from Berks, Chester and Montgomery counties attended the Traveling Bible meeting held April 18. (photo, below) Camp 523 Eagleville presented the Bible to Camp 298 Chester Springs in the Geigertown building.



ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Each year, the POS of A sponsors an Essay Contest in the name of former Secretary Harvey E. Stoehr to provide scholarship monies to high school seniors or juniors with a relative in the Order.

This year's winners are Shannon Jenkins and Noah Henry. Shannon, who lives in Reinholds, PA, is a 2023 graduate of Cocalico High School and the granddaughter of Charles Miller of Camp 230, St Lawrence. She has been involved in choir from 4th through 12th grade, and as a senior auditioned to become a member of a select choir ensemble, called Choralaires. Shannon also participated in soccer from age 7 through 9th grade, when she decided to focus more on school. She will be attending the Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences in Lancaster, Pa, where she will pursue a 4-year bachelor's degree in nursing. She hopes to work as a Registered Nurse for Lancaster General Hospital. Shannon received her \$2,000 First Place award at the annual Valley Forge Days at Patriot's Hall on June 10, and read her winning essay to those in attendance.

Noah resides in Shippensburg and is a 2023 graduate of Shippensburg Area Senior High School. He was the class Valedictorian with a GPA of 4.36. In school, he was a varsity soccer player as well as the kicker for the varsity football team. Noah was president of the National Honor Society as well as the Key Club, and Vice President of the Drama Club. He performed the lead as Shrek in the school production of "Shrek the Musical." His father is Jason Henry and grandfather Ken Weller, members of Camp 645 Orrstown. Noah will attend Shippensburg University with a major in either Psychology or Finance. He will receive his Second Place award of \$1,000 at an upcoming Orrstown Camp meeting.

Congratulations to both of our essay winners!

What Patriotism Means to Me *Submitted by Shannon Jenkins*

According to the Meriam Webster dictionary, patriotism is defined as, "love for or devotion to one's country." While this might be the true dictionary definition of the word "patriotism," I believe it means so much more than just having love or devotion for our country.

I believe patriotism is supporting our country through the good and the bad times. It means supporting our country even during the most difficult times. Patriotism means never losing faith in one's country. It is trust in one's country and wanting to push it towards great success and even to resolutions during these times of hardship.

Some people show patriotism by flying an American flag out of respect and love for their country. Others stand for the pledge and kneel for the cross. No matter how people show respect for their country, we all have one reason why we do these things, and that is to honor our country and those who have fought to keep us safe and build our country. Whether alive, deceased, retired or active duty, patriotism entails honoring our troops who have done nothing but support our country and fight to keep us protected because they hold some of the highest amount of patriotism. We as Americans need to show our patriotism and love for our troops by honoring them, thanking them for their service, and praying for a safe return back to their families. Our troops are why we have our wonderful countries, and they are why our countries are so strong. Because of this we must show our patriotism and always support our troops for what they have given up for us and what they have done for us. There simply would be no America without our brave troops risking their lives to protect our country. For this reason, too, they show some of the biggest amounts of patriotism because they risk their lives everyday to protect the country they stand by and love so much. Because of this we need to thank them and let them know that their contributions do not go unheard by our people, and we are so grateful for all that they do for us and for our country.

I believe that patriotism also entails never losing faith in one's country. It is standing proud to be a part of your country. It is not losing respect for your country when it is not being run how you feel it should be or when decisions are made that you simply do not agree with. Instead, it is rising above these things and helping to keep our country at its strongest point. It is trusting that your country will get over these small hills and return back to its strength because you have faith in your country and because you love it no matter what. *(Con't next page)*

ESSAYS, con't

Patriotism means that you know your country is not perfect. But you will do whatever you can to support it and strive to make the best you can. Patriotism means loving everyone of our country equal, giving everyone equal opportunities, supporting each other at all times, giving back to our communities, teachers, healthcare workers, armed forces, firefighters, police officers, paramedics and so many other important people. Patriotism is coming together because we are one big family and as one big family, we will always be stronger together.

What Patriotism Means to Me *Submitted by Noah Henry*

When many think of the word patriotism, they see images of men in white wigs writing documents, or colonial soldiers fighting the British on the battlefield. They see the cracked Liberty Bell, or frontiersmen settling in log cabins. Most view patriotism as a thing that we have left in the past, that is not an important part of our country today. However, these people are wrong. Patriotism has never left us, but instead has changed its form. The patriotism we think of when we hear the word is from a time long past, a time where we fought for the right just to exist as a country. It has not been that way for a long time, but has instead changed through the years to fit with the era it was present in.

How can we be sure that patriotism has shifted in its form? We know because, although patriotism has always represented a love of one's country, the way to show that love has taken countless forms over the years. In the rationing and struggles of World War II, patriotism looked like planting Victory Gardens and filling the societal roles of soldiers in the field. During the Industrial Revolution, it looked like an honest, hard day's work. Most notably, however, is the patriotism of the 1700's, in which colonists fought to carve themselves a new future in an unknown land, defeating the greatest superpower of the time in the process. However, in modern times, I believe that patriotism has gone through its most dramatic and important evolution of them all. Patriotism has surpassed a simple love of country, and even moved beyond risking oneself for the safety of one's homeland. Now, patriotism is finding love for the people within our country.

We live in the one of the most divided eras in human history. Especially when it comes to politics, there have been no other periods with people more isolated and hateful toward one another. Our country is locked in a perpetual argument, for which there seems to be no end, nor any reasonable conclusion reached. Even those on the same side of the political spectrum are more disconnected than ever before, due to the advent of technology that allows us to communicate with others without ever truly connecting with them. Today, even when we are together, we are ever so far apart, making it hard for even the most outgoing of people to find a genuine outside connection.

So what is patriotism, in the time of disconnectedness and discontent? To me, it is kindness to one's fellow man. It is seeing past the political divide, or putting down our new technologies and truly forging a relationship with those around us with our love of country. Since the beginning, George Washington stated that he believed our country should not have political parties, for fear of ripping the country apart. Now, hundreds of years later, he has been proven right, with our country sitting on the precipice of destruction of our political differences. To be a patriot is to help begin the healing process, and to help us realize that we should not turn against one another, but should connect and join one another against our problems, in hopes of the best possible future for America.

GETTING READY FOR THE NATIONAL CAMP SESSIONS.....

Several weeks ago, Camp Recording Secretaries received a packet of information regarding upcoming events as well as information needed to prepare the handbook for the National Convention. Please return the paperwork pertaining to your Camp's events and activities for the past year, as well as your Mid-Term Report, so it may be included in the handbook!

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Memorial Day is an important day of remembrance and reflection for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country. A Memorial Day Declaration from National President James Borkey was sent to all Camps to be read at their May Camp meeting. In part, he said: *“Memorial Day is a special time to honor America’s history and commemorate the bravery, courage and honor of our troops. Even though the holiday is a time to celebrate the freedoms we have in America, we should never forget that very freedom came at the expense of the brave heroes who lost their lives fighting to protect it.”* He encouraged Camps to participate in their local communities Memorial Day events, and ended his Declaration with this statement: *“Brothers, as you stand in remembrance staring at the many flags being flown this Memorial Day, keep this quote in mind: Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”*

Many Camps did participate in their local community Memorial Day events. Camp 113 Bernville held a Memorial Remembrance ceremony at the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park in Robesonia on Thursday, May 25, as well as organizing a parade on Memorial Day, May 29. Camp 211 Mohnton participated in ceremonies at the Mohnsville cemetery that day, and Camp 446 Centreport was active in three events on Memorial Day: memorial services at Centreport Fire Company, Leesport Memorial Park, and then at Salem Belleman’s Church in the late afternoon.



Photos from the Memorial Remembrance Ceremony held at the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park in Robesonia by Camp 113 Bernville.



Photos of Camp 113 Bernville in the Memorial Day Parade held in Wernersville.



MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS



Photos of Memorial Day at Salem Belleman's Church, Mohrsville, with Camp 446 Centerport. Ceremonies were held in both the old and new cemeteries.



LADIES DAY LUNCHEON AND TESTIMONIAL

This year's Ladies Day Luncheon was held in conjunction with the Testimonial for National President James Borkey. The event was held Saturday, April 29 at Ozgood's Restaurant in Robesonia. President Borkey expressed his sincere appreciation and thanks for the Testimonial, and it was a nice day to show appreciation for the Ladies of the POS of

A as well!



ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

The 75th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Parade in Reading, PA was held on Saturday, May 20. The POS of A participated in the parade, with the two youngest participants, Luke and Sam Werley, holding the POS of A banner. They are the twin grandsons of National Treasurer Thomas Werley and son of Camp 446 member Kyle Werley, who did the same honors of banner-carrier when he was that age!



EPLER'S SCHOOLHOUSE FLAG PRESENTATION

Built circa 1847, the year of the POS of A's founding, the Epler Schoolhouse served children in the Bern Township area of Berks County until 1931. It was turned into a private residence. When the property was sold in 2020, local citizens rallied to save the historic building from demolition. Funds were raised to move the schoolhouse to its new location at the Berks County Heritage Center, where it was restored. National President James Borkey presented two flags at the Grand Reopening Program of the schoolhouse, which was held on June 17.



Before renovation (above) and after renovation (below)



**OUR MEMBERS & FAMILY MEMBERS
IN THE MILITARY**

Camp No. 446

MAJ Bradley Hoppes
8514 Ivy Curl
Schertz, TX 78154-4121
TX Army Nat'l Guard; Border Security, Fort Bliss

Camp No. 211

EMN3 Jacob Dailey
USS Gerald R Ford
CVN-78 Unit 100328 Box 4367
FPO AE 09523

Camp No. 113

Trevor J. Shultz
221 Green Point Lane
Portsmouth, VA 23702

Camp No. 446

Grandson of member John Lutz PP
Capt. Matthew Doll
Fort Drum
Black River, NY

Ryan Chapman – In North Carolina
SGT Cindy Chapman – In North Carolina
(Siblings of Chris Chapman of Camp 446)

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Camps are encouraged to send Delegates to the 2021-2023 National Camp Convention, to be held September 30, 2023 at the Holiday Inn, Morgantown. A Meet and Greet will be held on Friday night, September 29, from 7 – 10 pm. Members are also invited to attend the banquet which will be held Saturday night, Sept. 30, beginning with the Installation of Officers at 5:30. See page 3 for more information!

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**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE
POS OF A OFFICE:**

240 S. Centre Ave., Leesport, PA 19533
Email: posofaoffice@aol.com
Phone: 610-926-3324

FLAG RETIREMENT PROJECT

During their annual Patriot's Day event held on April 15, Camp 113 Bernville dedicated their permanent facility to properly retire American flags. It is located on the grounds of their Camp building at the former Robesonia Furnace Paymaster's House.

From the beginnings of the pad back in the fall of 2022, to the dedication in April, Brothers of Camp 113 have worked diligently to achieve this project. They hold several large flag retirement events throughout the year, collecting tattered and worn American flags from various flag box collections, numerous cemeteries, and other organizations seeking to properly honor the flag. This new permanent place will allow them to retire even more flags in an efficient and proper manner.



THANK-YOU! THANK-YOU! THANK-YOU!

With all the activities and events, it takes a lot of photographers to record these happenings! A special thanks to ALL those who send in photos and information to the Camp News for this expanded issue. A special thanks to the monthly photo submission regulars Gloria Craley, Tony Goreski, Randy Yarnall, and Stan Sarnocinski, who make sure the POS of A events are documented through photos! Keep those photos coming!

CAMP DIRECTORY

PENNSYLVANIA

MONDAY

104 BOYERTOWN – Last Monday, 6 pm, Grind Restaurant, 45 S. Reading Ave., Boyertown. Glenn Werstler, R.S., 201 Fairview St., Boyertown, PA 19512-1804

211 MOHNTON – 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 pm, Mohnton Borough Hall, 20 O'Neil Street, Mohnton. Jeff Shanley, RS, PO Box 164, Mohnton, PA 19540-0164

TUESDAY

230 ST LAWRENCE – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, St Lawrence Community Hall, 3540 St Lawrence Avenue, Reading. Donald Dickerson, R.S., 3540 St Lawrence Avenue, Reading, PA 19606

240 DOUGLASSVILLE – 4th Tuesday dinner meeting at Michael's Restaurant, 6 pm, 1211 Benjamin Franklin Highway, Douglassville. Uwe Beck, R.S., 130 Yocom Road, Douglassville, PA 19518.

298 CHESTER SPRINGS – 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Geigertown Grange Hall, 3291 Hay Creek Road, Geigertown. James C. Dewees, R.S., 365 Byers Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425-9507

357 WOODWARD – 2nd Tuesday, P.O.S. of A. Hall. Michael Huey, R.S., PO Box 94, Woodward, PA 16882

387 SCHWENKSVILLE – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, DJM Design CAD and Coordination Services building, 395 Main Street, Schwenksville. Harry Phillips, R.S., 153 2nd St., Schwenksville, PA 19473

645 ORRSTOWN – 4th Tuesday, Orrstown Hall, 6:30 pm, East Main Street, Orrstown. Paul Yohe (Pres), 236 Clover Hill Road, Newburg, PA 17240

THURSDAY

113 BERNVILLE – Last Thursday of the month, Old-Furnace Office Bldg., W. Freeman Street, Robesonia. Charles Reidler, R.S., PO Box 149, Robesonia, PA 19551-0149

446 CENTERPORT – 3rd Thursday, POS of A Hall, (Centreport Sunday School) Main Street, Centreport. Michael Werley, R.S., PO Box 76, Mohrsville, PA 19541

523 EAGLEVILLE – 1st Thursday, dinner meeting, 6:30 pm, either at National Headquarters, Patriot's Hall, Valley Forge Park, or Tosco's Restaurant, 2908 West Main Street, Eagleville. Gary Brown, R.S., PO Box 481, Eagleville, PA 19408-0481

Executive Meeting Highlights

Your Executive Committee and Trustees have been busy with monthly meetings and attending various activities and events.

Camp 64 Myerstown has officially closed, and the Camp's investment monies were transferred into the National Camp portfolio. This was the Order's oldest Camp in existence, and only had one Camp member remaining.

The National Convention location and date had to be changed due to a conflict at the original hotel site. It will now be held September 29 and 30 at the Morgantown Holiday Inn.

Motion made and approved to again sponsor a student to attend the Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week sessions at a cost of \$695.

Motion made and approved to preserve and reframe the original certificate of shares of the POS of A that was used to raise monies to preserve Washington's Headquarters. The certificate is currently on display at Patriot's Hall. The cost in the motion is not to exceed \$250.

In anticipation of numerous events that were held at Patriot's Hall, several additional renovations were completed. A new kitchen was installed, the bathrooms were painted and a urinal removed, and an outside clean-up day was held. Two new storm doors were installed, and two more will be done in the near future. Also new toilets may be installed in both the men's and women's restrooms. A motion was made and approved for the National Camp to pay for the kitchen flooring at a cost of \$146.27.

Motion made and approved for the National Camp to pay for the bulk mail postage for the Valley Forge Appeal mailing as their donation to the appeal, at a cost of \$132.

DON'T FORGET!!

A major POS of A event will be the Betsy Ross Claypoole Grave Marker Rededication which will be held on Saturday, August 26, beginning at noon at Patriot's Hall! This will be an exciting event and one that we hope all will plan to attend!

VALLEY FORGE DAY FUN!

A great day for fun and fellowship was held on Saturday, June 10, at Patriot's Hall and with a flag presentation at the Arch, check presentation to the Valley Forge Alliance, Shannon Jenkins reading her first-place Essay, door prize winners, and good food and entertainment!

