

Merli Messenger

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401 Penn Avenue Scranton, PA (570)961-4300

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THE VETERAN'S CREED



Eleven major veterans service organizations announced the development and adoption of the Veteran's Creed. The participating organizations will present this Creed at an event on Flag Day, June 14th at the Reserve Officers Association Headquarters in Washington DC.

This Creed is the result of extensive discussions and consultations among the group that began at Georgetown University and is meant to inspire veterans to continue to serve and lead in their communities and in the country.

"It summarizes the values and continued mission we share as a community of veterans. It unites us in common purpose and shows our fellow Americans the ethos that make veterans a productive and critical asset to the nation long after our time in uniform is complete".

- Gary Augustine, DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters Executive Director.

1. I am an American Veteran
2. I proudly served my country
3. I live the values I learned in the military
4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline
6. I continue to lead and improve
7. I make a difference
8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades

WELCOME HOME

GINO J. MERLI'S NEW RESIDENTS

Newsletter info:

Feedback is important.
Please send articles or
information for inclusion
in the next newsletter to:

DeLores Davis,
Volunteer Resource
Coordinator
(570) 961-4380
delodavis@pa.gov

Volunteer Staff:
Lorraine Lenge

THE MERLI MESSENGER

Residents will receive a
hard copy of the
newsletter.

If anyone would like to
subscribe, contact one of
the above people.

Russell Osenbach
05/01

Jose Arroyo
05/04

Michael Hromchak
05/07

Michael Cicalese
05/09

Charles Seamans
05/09

Robert Wayne
05/10

Otis Spencer
05/14

George Borthwick
05/15

Hildo Miranda
David Swartz
05/17



Ronald Rowlands
05/21

Robert Evans
5/24

Herbert Stewart
05/29

William Kerbs
5/31

TRUMP SIGNS VA LAW

President Trump signed legislation paving the way for a major overhaul of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It expanded access for veterans to VA-funded care in the private sector.

This measure was passed by overwhelming bipartisan support. Working out the details is the Agency's task under the law.



DID YOU KNOW...



AUDIE MURPHY became the most decorated U.S. soldier in World War II. Though he was only 21 years old at the end of the war he had killed 240 German soldiers and was himself wounded three times.

Born in Kingston, Texas on June 20, 1925 he was one of twelve children. His father deserted the family and Audie helped feed his mother and siblings by hunting rabbits and other small animals around the property.

Ten days after his 18th birthday he enlisted in the military. In 1943 he was sent to North Africa for training. Despite contracting malaria he distinguished himself in battle.

He quickly attained the rank of corporal.

By 1944 Murphy's division moved to southern France as part of Operation Dragoon. Enraged that while in battle his friend had been killed, he commandeered the German's machine gun and grenades. He then attacked several positions, killing all the German soldiers there. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.



Over the course of World War II, Murphy witnessed the deaths of hundreds of fellow and enemy soldiers.

He was awarded 33 U.S. Military Medals including three Purple Hearts and one Medal of Honor.

In 1949 he published his autobiography *To Hell and Back*. It became a national bestseller and in 1955 he played himself in the film version of his book.

Plagued by insomnia and nightmares, a condition that would eventually become known as post-traumatic stress disorder, he suffered from an addiction to sleeping pills.

On May 28, 1971 he was killed in a plane crash and on June 7, 1971 he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. ARMY

The United States Army was founded on June 14, 1775 when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.

A distinguished career United States Army Officer was Joseph Hooker who achieved the rank of Major General in the Union Army during the Civil War. He graduated the United States Military Academy in 1837. At the start of the Civil War he attained the position of Brigadier General and distinguished himself leading a division in the Battle of Williamsburg. He led the initial attacks at the Battle of Antietam, in which he was wounded. At the Battle of Fredericksburg he commanded a "Grand Division". He was given the command of *the Army of the Potomac*.

During the spring of 1863 Hooker established a reputation as an outstanding administrator and restored morale to his soldiers. He implemented corps badges as a means of identifying units during battle or when marching and to instill pride in his men.



Hooker said of his army:

**"I have the finest army
on the planet.
I have the finest army
the sun shone on...
If the enemy does not run,
God help them".**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| John Maronna | 06/01 | Michael Gaffney | 06/17 |
| Wayne Clark | 06/02 | Timothy Mackie | 06/19 |
| Lawrence Hartshorn | 06/05 | Martin Ramage | 06/19 |
| Robert Evans | 06/09 | Irwin Gordon | 06/24 |
| David Swartz | 06/10 | Thomas Pope | 06/24 |
| Ronald Yodis | 06/12 | Michael Hromchak | 06/27 |
| Willam Tomolaitis | 06/14 | Ethel Cole | 06/28 |
| Helen Ann Lipinski | 06/16 | David Baum | 06/29 |
| James Contessa | 06/17 | William Kerbs | 06/30 |

GENEROUS GIVINGS:

MONETARY

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Friends of the Forgotten donated \$50.00. | OES 83 donated \$40.00 for bingo. | Laborers' Advancement and Benevolent Association donated \$100.00. |
| VFW Auxiliary Dept of PA donated \$85.00 for coffee and donuts, \$150.00 for Veterans Home Week entertainment, and \$100.00 for bingo. | OES Dept of PA donated \$1.00 for bingo. Family Council Support Group donated \$40.00. | Michael and Ruth Aicenbaum doanted \$500.00 at the Boscov's fundraiser. |
| American Legion Auxiliary Dept of PA donated \$500.00 for carnations, bingos and entertainment. | American Legion Post 207 donated \$1000.00. Association of the United States Army donated \$3000.00. | Edward Bardonski donated \$50.00 for dine in. Diana and Edwin Bloxham donated \$130.00. |
| United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties donated \$203.95. | Boscov's fundraiser brought in \$1337.15. | Gene Gallagher donated \$20.00 at the Boscov's fundraiser. |
| OES Chapter 12 donated \$40.00 for bingo. | Digman-Delaware Elementery's Veteran Buddies donated \$100.00. | Donald Gavalis donated \$50.00 for dine in. |
| Villa Capri doanted \$300.00. | | |

Thank you for your generosity and support. You are deeply appreciated by the veterans, families, and staff at the Center. These gifts will enhance the quality of life of our residents.

REMINDER: ROLLING THUNDER

Sunday, July 15th

We again ask for Residents' patience while staff and volunteers get set up. Volunteers and staff will assist residents outside at **10:30**.

Thank you for your patience.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE:

Contact:

DeLores Davis,
Volunteer Resource
Coordinator
(570) 961-4380
delodavis@pa.gov

A resident wish list is available for personal comfort items.

GENEROUS GIVINGS CONTINUE:

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mildred Clifton donated \$100.00 in memory of Donald Clifton.

Janet Fallon donated \$25.00 in memory of Frank Stone.

Diane Fallon donated \$50.00 in memory of Frank Stone.

Kathleen Michalina donated \$20.00 in memory of Frank Stone.

IN KIND

Delta Kappa Gamma PHI Chapter donated quilts.

Traditional Hospice donated flowers.

Nancy Brown donated stationary items.

Cynthia Lucas donated rocking chair and ottoman.

Lynn Slachtish donated clothing.

Sylvia Smith donated flower crafts.

DAR PA NE District donated sensory items.



TAPS

Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center extends its deepest sympathy to the loved ones of the following veterans who have recently passed away. Their presence will be greatly missed.

Josef Luetzen 05/09/18

Gabriel Opello 05/19/18

Michael Mazur 05/25/18

