The **Gold Star Mothers** were founded by Grace Darling Seibold whose son, George Vaughn Seibold, was killed during World War I.

Grace was convinced that self-contained grief was self-destructive so she devoted her time and efforts to working in hospitals.

In addition, she supported other mothers whose sons had died in military service.

With the desire to bring comfort to each other and also to bring loving care to hospitalized veterans far from home, she founded American Gold Star Mothers.

On May 28, 1918 President Wilson approved a suggestion made by the Council of National Defense that American women should wear a black band on the left arm with a gilt star on the band.

Service Flags have a deep Blue Star for each living member in the Service and a Gold Star for each member who died.

Thus, the Gold Star, and the term Gold Star Member applies to mothers whose sons and daughters died in World War I and have continued to be used in reference to all American military engagements since that time.

On the last Sunday in September Gold Star Mother’s Day is observed. This was originally declared by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936.
Newsletter info:

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

Sarah Butler, Admissions
(570) 961-4348
sabulter@pa.gov

Or

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.

Welcome Home
GINO J. MERLI’S NEW RESIDENTS

Albert Wycallis 8-02
Mary Schubert 8-03
Peter Golay 8-04
Walter Stout 8-08
Francis Jeffers 8-09
Joseph Shifton 8-10
Paul Mielo 8-11
Edward Wormuth 8-14
Richard Townsend 8-14
James Walker 8-15
Julia Capp 8-16
Nicholas Carlino 8-24
Charles McCollum 8-28

Welcome Everyone...
The Gino J. Merli Veterans’ Center gave their support to The Lou Ruspi Jr. Foundation on September 15th in recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day. According to Veteran Suicide Statistics of 2014 an average of 20 Veterans died daily from suicide. The VA believes every Veteran suicide is a tragic outcome. Regardless of the statistic numbers, one Veteran suicide is one too many. The Administration continues to spread the word throughout the VA that “Suicide Prevention is Everyone’s Responsibility.”

The Veterans Crisis Line Expansion provides 24/7 immediate access to mental health crisis intervention and support. Since its inception the VCL through May 2016 has answered over 2.3 million calls, made over 289,000 chat connections. It also has initiated the dispatch of emergency service to callers in imminent suicidal crisis over 61,000 times.

For more information, Veterans who are currently enrolled in VA health care can speak with VA mental health care or their health care provider. In response to the joint effort of the Gino J. Merli Veterans’ Center and the Lou Ruspi Jr. Foundation over 25 individuals purchased Yellow Shirts in support of the effort as well as another 10 individuals purchasing suicide prevention pins. Money raised will be used to provide free educational seminars on suicide prevention and mental wellness. For more information on supporting this cause contact the LRJ Foundation.com.

Above: Just a few of the 35 Staff and volunteers who participated in the Wear Yellow Campaign on September 15th.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY AIR FORCE

On September 18, 1947 aboard the first Air Force One, President Truman signed the National Security Act which established the US Air Force.

The Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) is the federal Air Reserve Component (ARC) of the US Air Force, consisting of commissioned officers and enlisted airmen.

The AFRC supports the Air Force to defend the United States and also plays an integral role in the day to day Air Force mission, not strictly a force which is held in reserve for possible war. On any given day, 99 percent of AFRC’s aircraft are mission-ready and able to deploy within 72 hours.

Unlike the Air National Guard which alternates between “state” and “federal” status, the Air Force Reserve is strictly “federal”.

Two unique mission sets of the AFR for which it possesses the sole USAF capability are: 1) Aerial Spray Missions, employing specially equipped C-130 aircraft and 2) Hurricane and Weather Reconnaissance including hurricane and typhoon penetration by its own WC-130J aircraft. In addition, certain AFR can conduct forest fire and wildfire suppression missions using specially equipped C-130 Hercules aircraft. Another valuable function performed by the AFRC is aerial refueling capability with aircrews operation AMC KC-10 Extenders in associate units.

In wartime, AFRC provides 23 percent of Air Force’s total C-130 theater airlift force, with nearly half of the Air Force Reserve’s airlift units flying their own unit-assigned C-130 Hercules aircraft.

The Air Force Reserve employs approximated 68,000 trained personnel.

Happy 70th Birthday

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
DID YOU KNOW...

JOHNNY CASH - enlisted in the US Air Force in 1950 and was assigned as a Morse intercept operator with the 69 10th Security Group at Landsberg, West Germany. While stationed there he intercepted Russian military radio transmissions. He talks about his time with the Air Force in his memoirs… “I had such a talent for that work...I was the ace. I was who they called when the hardest jobs came up. I copied the first news of Stalin’s death. I located the signal when the first Soviet jet bomber made its first flight from Moscow to Smolensk…”

GLENN MILLER - served as a Captain in the US Air Force. He formed a 50 Piece Army Air Force Band which he took to England in 1944. Miller gave over 800 performances. The records of the AAF Band were used as propaganda broadcasts for the Office of War Information. His music was used to denounce fascist oppression in Europe and he is quoted as saying “America means freedom and there’s no expression of freedom quite so sincere as music.”

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Robert Whitesell 9-02 Nicholas Carlino 9-24
John Calpin 9-03 Lawrence Warner 9-24
John Dellamalva 9-04 Gerald Hunt 9-25
Regina Zygmunt 9-06 Ethel Phillips 9-26
Harold Lang 9-07 Stanley Exeter 9-27
Laura Baron 9-11 Andrew Powanda 9-29
Francis Tyson 9-23 John Tuloshetski 9-29
Edward Arcangeletti 9-24
AFTERNOON TEA

On Sunday, September 24th at 2:00 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room, Afternoon Tea will be served to the ladies.

This event is being sponsored by the 15th District, American Legion Post 154, Montrose, Pa.

Afternoon Tea is a light meal typically eaten between 3:30 and 5 PM.

The Observance of this custom began in England in the 1840’s and the credit for Afternoon Tea goes to Anna Maria Russell, Duchess of Bedford. By the end of the 19th Century, both the upper and middle classes enjoyed Afternoon Tea.

**Nowadays, a formal afternoon tea is more a special occasion.**

Janice Gaven, Deputy Commander, Women Veterans’ Issue and American Legion Historian will be giving a brief talk on the importance of Saving Your Military History at Afternoon Tea on the 24th.

FALLING CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY

Falls have been identified as a serious health risk for our residents.

The Staff at the Center are attempting to create a Falls Prevention Program and need your help.

A new Post Fall Huddle Procedure is being implemented with hopes to decrease future falls.

This Procedure will be discussed at the Resident Council Meeting on October 3rd at 10:00 am in the MPR. Residents are encouraged to attend.
GENEROUS GIVINGS:
MONETARY

Friends of the Forgotten donated $80.84 for coffee and donuts, and $50.00.

American Legion Auxiliary Dept of PA donated $200.00 for bingo, $100.00 for horse races, and $75.00 for polka band.

Devore Quinn Post 486 donated $400.00.

Janet Fallon donated $184.83 for bingo and coffee and donuts.

OES Chapter 189 donated $50.00 for bingo.

United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties donated $64.74.

NE Division of PA Elks donated $300.00 for dine ins.

Family Council Support Group donated $73.00.

Sales of Kiss t shirts earned $125.00.

VFW Auxiliary Dept of PA donated $100.00 for bingo.

Anne Linko donated $100.00.

St Adalberts Church donated $100.00 for bingo.

Donald Clifton donated $40.00.

William and Jean Thompson donated $50.00 in honor of Roy and Vee Pauli’s 50th wedding anniversary.

IN KIND

Friends of the Poor donated t shirts.

Laurie Roczkowski donated clothing.

Dingman Delaware Elementary School donated t shirts.

Sandra Gardner donated fidget quilts and lap blankets.

Jean Lakata donated music t shirts.

Ed Mack donated hats, socks, and other items.

Joseph Nieroda donated clothing.

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.

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

JoAnn Kozich donated $40.07 in memory of Richard Sabol.

Margaret Heller and Stanley Zory donated $100.00 in memory of Michael Lesnesky.

Michael Lesnesky donated $83.05 in memory of Michael Lesnesky.

Linda and Richard Peacock donated $30.00 in memory of Ruth Adams.

Donna and Adam Reese donated $100.00 in memory of Michael Lesnesky.

Laurie Roczkowski donated $107.38 in memory of Theodore Mileski.

Jennifer Santiago and Loretta Malson purchased a Tags of Freedom in memory of MSG Louis C. Chimel.

Neal and Linda Stoll

JoAnn Kozich donated $150.00 in memory of Ruth Adams.

John Squirlock made a donation in memory of Servie Squirlock.

THANK YOU

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.

Joseph Spalluto
08/07

Lillian Passo
08/09

John Pfeifer Jr.
08/24