Anthony Wayne was one of the most colorful of all the Commanders-In-Chief that the Army of the United States has ever had. Some have acclaimed him as the first native-born military genius. Because of his brilliant exploits during the American Revolution, he was regarded as a military hero in his own time. The Wayne Blockhouse on the grounds of the PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home is a memorial to General Anthony Wayne. He was appointed Commander-In-Chief of the Legions of America by President Washington in 1792. On August 20, 1794, Wayne decisively routed Native Americans in the battle of Fallen Timbers, leading to the Treaty of Greenville under which the unwritten British alliance was broken, and the Northwest Territory secured for the United States.

Meanwhile, Jay’s Treaty settled the existing disputes with the British, who agreed to withdraw from the posts on United States territory which they had been holding since the Revolution. In 1796 Wayne received orders to occupy these posts. On his return from a triumphal visit to Detroit, he landed at the new Pennsylvania fort at Presque Isle in Erie. There he fell ill and died on December 15, 1796, in the northwest blockhouse of Fort Presque Isle. He was buried at the foot of the flagpole of the fort but in 1809 his son, Isaac Wayne, removed his bones to the family cemetery at St. David’s Church in Radnor, Chester County. Legend has it that when General Wayne’s son left with the bones some were displaced from the wagon and lost. On each New Year’s Eve, it is said that the Spirit of General Wayne astride his horse appears on the site of the blockhouse searching for his missing bones.

The blockhouse occupies a site known as Garrison Hill, where a succession of fortifications stood during the early 19th century. Over time all disappeared along with the location of Wayne’s original grave. It was rediscovered during the nation’s Centennial and marked by a new stone. The present blockhouse was erected in 1879.

Today this great and flamboyant soldier is remembered in numerous place names throughout the United States and especially in Pennsylvania. In the Keystone State, a county, nine townships, and the boroughs of Wayne, Waynesboro, and Waynesburg all bear his name.
Commandant’s Corner

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Unless you don’t like snow, but I know you were singing the tune! The holiday season is officially in full swing. During this time, let us not forget the true meaning of the holidays. It is a time to be with the ones you love and enjoy one another’s company. I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving. A special thank you to all the staff who spent the day with their work family. The residents truly appreciate all your hard work and dedication to making PSSH a wonderful place to live.

December is a busy time of the month here at PSSH. Activities will be setting up Christmas trees around the building and lights outside for all to enjoy. The Adjutant General Mark J. Schindler is scheduled to visit our facility on December 17th. Followed by Wreaths Across America on December 18th. Christmas day will be celebrated Saturday, December 25th this year.

Visitation Update...

Great news! Visitation is now allowed for all residents at all times. Scheduling of visitation is no longer necessary! All visitors will continue with the screening process and be offered rapid testing as routine. While this is great news, we still need to be cautious. We are still fighting this pandemic together. The Erie County positivity rate is continuing to climb. Please, stay home if you aren’t feeling well to help ensure the safety of both our residents and staff.

Just a quick safety reminder. Snow is falling and ice is forming as temperatures begin to drop below freezing. Be alert and extra careful while maneuvering around the grounds. If you notice any areas that need attention (cleared of ice and/or snow), please alert any member of the staff so that it can be taken care of immediately!

Our “Caught You Caring” employee of the month of October is James Wolfgang! James was nominated by the PCU Council for his efforts in supporting dining on PCU, especially with the salad bar on the weekends. Thank you, James, for all your hard work! You truly are an asset to the PSSH team!

One last thought...“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”
December Birthdays

- Chester Stuckey 12/1
- John Hanich 12/4
- James Deluca 12/6
- James Kiel 12/7
- Kenneth Klein 12/9
- John Serafin 12/9
- Darrell Pierce 12/11
- Leslie Stoudt 12/15
- Lois Evans 12/23
- Ed Gonser 12/30
- Robert Galonski 12/31
- Ronald Ewing 12/31

December Activities

- Monday, December 6, 1:15pm Craft Cart (PCU Lobby)
- Tuesday, December 7, 2:00pm Poker (PCU Dining Room)
- Wednesday, December 8, 3:15pm Birthday Social
- Friday, December 17, 3:00pm TAG visit w/ Room to Room Burton Stocking Distribution
- Saturday, December 18, 8:00am-Noon Wreaths Across America
- Monday, December 20, 2:00pm Unit C Gift Distribution and Snacks
- Tuesday, December 21, 1:15pm Craft Cart (PCU Lobby)
- Thursday, December 23, 7:00pm BINGO (PCU Dining Room)
- Monday, December 27, 1:00pm PCU Resident Council (PCU Dining Room)
- Friday, December 31, 3:15pm New Years Eve Social

TAPS

- Judith Hewitt
- Alfonso Ferrante
- Joseph Torok
- Russell Cornman
- Edward Swonder
- Lois Cochran

Newsletter Info

If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please contact:
Ken Vybiral
Volunteer Coordinator
814-878-4961 / kvybiral@pa.gov
New Residents

The PA Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Home would like to welcome our new residents:

None

Want to keep updated on DMVA?
Follow us on these social media platforms!

Search “Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs” on any of those sites to connect with us and see the latest news, pictures and videos from DMVA.