

Merli Messenger

Volume 3 Issue 12

December 2016

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

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

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The Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center is gearing up for a busy and exciting Holiday Season. Events and activities are planned so that all will be in a festive and jubilant frame of mind as the holidays approach.

The format of the December Issue of the *Merli Messenger* has taken on a slightly different look.

This information will also be readily available to the residents on the posted December Calendar of Events.



In order to insure that all the residents have the opportunity to participate in as many activities as they choose, a complete listing of where, when and exactly what will be occurring has been highlighted on Pages 4 and 5 of this Issue.



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.

WELCOME HOME

GINO J. MERLI'S NEW RESIDENTS

Roy Koerner
11-01
Andrew Zurine
11-07
Howard Hartman
11-07
George Dickey
11-14
Donald Beavers
11-17



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Newsletter info:

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

Volunteer Staff:
Lorraine Lenge



On Saturday, December 17th at NOON the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Home will host "Wreaths Across America".

In 1992 with a surplus of wreaths Morrill Worcester the owner of Worcester Wreaths Company in Maine realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's Veterans.

Arrangements were made for wreaths to be placed in one of the older sections of Arlington National Cemetery. In 2007 Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit, was formed. Congress voted December 13th to be known as "Wreaths Across America Day".

By 2001 over 220,000 memorial wreaths were laid at 545 locations, including Pearl Harbor. Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center is proud to be added to the list of locations for this event.

Residents will be afforded the ability to watch from the lobby as the ceremony unfolds outside.



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!

Larry Hebron
12-01

Thomas McGoff
12-03

John Nichols
12-16

Joseph Ward
12-02

William Brandenburg
12-04

John Costanzi
12-19

Donald Beavers
12-03

Kenneth Foucart
12-05

Hayden Hall
12-24

Charles Bogdon
12-03

Lois Hummel
12-06

Edgena Jones
12-27

Robert Emery
12-03

Nicholas Deliman
12-13

Roy Koerner
12-30

James Lakata
12-30

“A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY”



The U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Japanese on **December 7, 1941**.

GENERAL PEARL HARBOR

FACTS:

The Japanese attacked the U.S. without warning.

The attack lasted 110 minutes, from 7:55 AM until 9:45 AM.

A total of 2,335 U.S. servicemen were killed, 1,143 were wounded.

Pearl Harbor is on the south side of the Hawaiian Island of Oahu and is the home to a U.S. Naval Base.

The attack on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into WWII.

Many of the U.S. airplanes were lined up outside, along the airstrips, wingtip to wingtip to avoid sabotage.

Unable to get more than a handful of planes in the air, individual U.S. servicemen tried to shoot down the Japanese planes from the ground.



A BUSY DECEMBER CALENDAR:

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT *WHERE, WHO & WHEN*

All entertainment planned will be held in the Multipurpose Room.



9th: Mt. View Honor Society will give a Concert at 9:30.

10th: Lenoxville Band will perform at 2:00.

11th: NE Theatre Academy 2:00.



PARTY ANYONE

The Tobyhanna Army Depot Christmas Party will be held on December 14th. The Gino J. Merli Center Bus will be leaving at 9am.

The Building Holiday Party will be held on December 16th in the Multipurpose Room at 2:00 PM with entertainment by the Longo Brothers. Holiday Treats will be available for the enjoyment of the residents.



JINGLE BELLS JINGLE BELLS

Lively songs and soft hymns evoke the spirit of the holiday season.

The residents will be treated to a performance on December 20th at 10:00 AM by the West Scranton Choir and Band in the MPR.

On December 21st the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Choir will give a Concert at 2:00 PM in the MPR.

LET'S DO LUNCH!



With the Holidays fast approaching, there is nothing more enjoyable than a relaxing lunch with friends accompanied by music. Each resident of the Gino J. Merli Center was encouraged to invite two friends to the December date of their selected luncheon.

On December 12 **3 SOUTH** will be enjoying Piano Music with their luncheon.

On December 13 it will be luncheon and Steve Wzoreck Accordion Music for the residents of **2 SOUTH**.

On December 14 the Ukele Group will be entertaining **2 NORTH** while they enjoy their luncheon.

On December 15 luncheon will be served and Piano Music will be heard by the residents of **1 SOUTH**.



A HOLIDAY BUFFET



Save room for a Turkey Buffet with all the trimmings which will be sponsored by the *Sweet Home Personal Care*. The Dine-In “Holiday Buffet” will begin at Noon on both December 19th and again on December 22nd in the Multipurpose Room.

GENEROUS GIVINGS: MONETARY



LEFT PHOTO: *Back Row Thunder Representatives: Don Crane, Jack Gorham, Peg Barhight and Augie Barhight. Front Row Gino J Merli Veterans Center residents: Anastasia Techey, Agatha Engler, and John Dellamalva*

Rolling Thunder Representatives presented the Center's residents with a check from the motorcycle ride in July. Next ride is July 16, 2017.

University of Scranton PT/OT students donated \$6.00 for bingo.

Red Hatters donated \$100.00 for bingo.

John and Domenica Argonish donated \$100.00 for bingo.

Association of the United States Army donated \$3000.00.

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

Friends of the Forgotten donated \$50.00 and \$80.84.

VFW Auxiliary Dept of PA donated \$100.00 for bingo.

VFW Post 15 donated \$500.00.

United Gilsonite donated \$500.00.

Penn Foster donated \$471.20 and \$175.00 in gift cards.

Ann Brandenburg donated \$10.00.

James Miller donated cash.

Cheryl Ruby donated \$20.00.

Volunteers donated \$10.00 for horse racing.

Robert Janco donated \$1000.00.

Samuel and Rebecca Tallo donated \$100.00 for a memorial bingo.

Rocky Mollenshott donated \$2.00.

Sandra Evans donated \$100.00 for bingo.

Volunteers donated \$100.00 for bingo.

Janice Gavern donated \$231.00 for the Women Veterans Tea.



PHOTO: James Miller, Commandant, Gino J Merli Veterans Center; Chrissy Jacoby, Executive Director, Asera Care; Theresa Durkin, Group member; Romaine Hall, Group member; Bernice Murry, Group member; Anne Lello, Group member; Cindy Smith, Patient Lainson, Asera Care; Karen Caruso, Social Services Clerk, Gino J Merli Veterans Center; and Margo Coleman, Social Work Supervisor, Gino J Merli Veterans Center.

GENEROUS GIVINGS:

IN KIND



Ferne Aithen donated throws.

Warm Up America donated afghans.

Melanie Eckenrode donated gift boxes.

Mr. Costanzi donated books.

Carmel Panasuck donated candy.

Kevin Koester donated watch batteries.

Abbey Malinoski donated clothing.

Pauline Beck donated lap blankets.

John Malinoski donated clothing.

Brenda Gyla donated clothing.

Kevin Vodzak donated clothing.

Amy Pua donated clothing.

Stacie Valentine donated personal items.

Kristy Vassel donated clothing.

Kelly Koester donated clothing.

Kylee Gyuriska donated clothing.

OES donated 10 boom boxes and 9 cds.

Janet Fallon donated clothing.

Battaglia's donated hats and t shirts.

Myrt Fielding donated clothing.

Barb Christ donated Christmas ribbons.

John Strony donated a lift chair.

VFW Post 531 Auxiliary donated blankets.

VFW Post 7130 Auxiliary donated hats, gloves, and scarfs.

Karen Mitchell donated a subscription of large print Guidepost.

Cathy Strackbein donated Pittsburgh Pirate Gift Pack.

Thomas Myer donated 20 decks of playing cards.

Jeannie Kris McDonald donated socks.

Machwihilusing Chapter DAR donated personal items.

LaSalle Academy donated t shirt totes and blankets.

Sue Hughes donated clothing.

Mrs. Berry Romanczyk donated wheelchair bags for leg rests.

RESIDENTS RECEIVED VETERANS DAY CARDS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

21st Century Schuylkill Achieve
 Abington Heights High School
 4th grade Robert Norris Elementary School
 5th grade Dunmore Elementary School
 Plaza Elementary
 Jewish Home
 Lisa Schmidt
 John Adams Elementary School
 Neil Armstrong School
 Brittany Musacchio
 United Neighborhood/Progressive Child Care
 Friends Forever Day Care
 Lawrence B Morris School
 Preston Area School
 4th grade Ventura Elementary School in Kissimmee Florida
 Our Lady of Peace School
 Lehman Intermediate School
 Small Wonders and Friendship House
 UCP
 RDW Elementary School

GENEROUS GIVINGS CONTINUE:

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Gary and Patricia Rex purchased three Tags of Freedom.

David Baker donated \$100.00 in memory of John Strony Jr.

Shirley and Bruce Melesky donated \$10.00 in memory of Chester Zahorsky.

Sean McGraw donated \$50.00 in the name of Logan Tierney.

Joseph Campolieto donated \$50.00 in the name of Logan Tierney.

Walter Casper donated \$20.00 in the name of Logan Tierney.

Lillian Hassler donated \$20.00 in memory of Robert Tinklepaugh.

Michael and Sharon Phillips

donated \$25.00 in memory of Robert Tinklepaugh.

Rene and Cynthia Jose doanted \$50.00 in memory of Robert Tinklepaugh.

Carbondale Chapter UNICO donated \$100.00 in memory of Michael Gretzula.

Julia Cerra donated \$25.00 in memory of Michael Gretzula.

Frank and Linda Okoren donated \$20.00 in memory of Michael Gretzula.

Mr and Mrs Gary Yunko donated \$20.00 in memory of Michael Gretzula.

Kevin and Mary Ann Keith donated \$50.00 in memory of

Michael Gretzula.

Marie Carpenter donated \$100.00 in memory of Josephine DeSantis.

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.

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.

Gerald Stinson	11-01-16
Frank Giorgio	11-05-16
Marguerite Charters	11-06-16
Lincoln Groff	11-10-16
Albert Weissberger	11-14-16
George Dickey	11-17-16
Gwenda Couch	11-19-16
William Bernavage	11-19-16
Josephine DeSantis	11-20-16

