

May 22, 2015
Edition

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T.G.I.F.

MEMORIAL DAY - May 25th, 2015

Allied Veterans Honor Guard Proclamation

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At the Wednesday, May 13th commissioner's public meeting, it was an honor and privilege for the Adams County Board of Commissioners to recognize the dedication and service of the Adams County Allied Veterans Honor Guard for their 17 years of service. The recognition ceremony was facilitated by Adams County Veterans Affairs Director Stan Clark and resulted in over thirty Honor Guard members attending.



These Honor Guard members are personally committed to render final military honors at the funerals of our veterans throughout the county. The pledge of allegiance, led by Director Clark, was the most emphatic heard in the historic courtroom in memory. As Director Clark and the Board delivered our remarks, the veterans aged 60-90 in uniform, stood at attention on each side of the podium. The display of disci-

pline, pride in service, dignity and respect was moving and poignant.

Full military honors include flag folding and presentation to family, a rifle detail with volley, and the sounding of Taps. During the remarks, I

pointed out that these individuals donate their time to perform these duties in all types of weather, despite the fact that many have physical limitations. I also stated there is no

doubt these Honor Guard members deserve the special recognition they received. They have taken it upon themselves and made a personal commitment to honor their brothers and sisters with a final and poignant act of respect and esteem for service to our country. On behalf of all the residents of Adams County.....I thank the Adams County Allied Veterans Honor Guard for your service to our veterans!

Drug & Alcohol Counsel Program UPDATE

We are continuing to move forward to improve community reintegration into the community from the Adams County Adult Correctional Complex. The County of Adams, the York/ Adams Mental Health Joinder, Pyramid Healthcare, Warden Brian Clark, and Judge Campbell are presently engaged with the PA Department of Health to establish a licensed Drug and Alcohol counseling service at the Correctional Complex. Once details are finalized to ensure compliance with state guidelines and protection of inmate privacy, the program will be launched with the support of York/ Adams Mental Health. We understand that a program of sustained counseling must begin at the prison and continue into the community to be most successful.

911 Emergency Radio Project UPDATE

I am pleased to report that we are getting closer to completion of the very important Adams County 911 800 MHz Public Safety Radio Project. The 19 tower sites have been generally completed. We are looking to begin testing of the approximately 2220 grids across the county on September 9. The turn on day for most law enforcement is projected to be October 20. There is no doubt this is an important project that will have significant impact on the lives of Adams County residents.



Memorial Day Comments

Last year it was my honor and privilege to deliver the Memorial Day remarks at the Wensville Memorial Day Ceremony in the shadow of Bear Mountain. If you ever need a fix for a patriotic and wonderful slice of Americana, plan to attend the Wensville program this Saturday. With Memorial Day weekend upon us, I decided to take a few excerpts of the remarks I made that day and include them in this memorial weekend TGIF for you to ponder.

"Memorial Day is the most solemn day of all veterans' remembrances. There are many stories as to the actual beginnings of Memorial Day, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. Interestingly, the South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). Memorial Day is now officially celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May. I found this fact interesting that several southern states still have an additional separate

day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi, May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

This service in Wensville has been a tradition for decades. In another bit of historic trivia your neighbor to the south Gettysburg, has the Memorial Day Parade dating back 148 years. In fact it is so old that even I marched in it - and placed flowers during all my primary school years. In fact for my parents and I, the Memorial Day Parade was a school day in Gettysburg and attendance was taken at the parade. We always drove through the National Cemetery that evening to view

the flowers strewn by the students and then headed to the Twin Kiss out the Emmitsburg Road for a frosted mug of root beer and a twist cone."

I concluded my remarks that day with a quote from President Ronald Regan at Arlington National Cemetery in 1996. "Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family, across the country children and their parents will be going to the town parade, and the young ones will sit on the sidewalks and wave their flags as the band goes by. Later, maybe, they'll have a cookout or a day at the pool. And that's good, because today is a day to remember."



Adams County Law Enforcement Training Range Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 20th. The Adams County Law Enforcement Association is organizing a fundraiser in support of the proposed law enforcement firearms training range which will be located at the 911 center site. Battlefield Harley Davidson has agreed to host the event in coordination with the Range Committee which includes, Sheriff Muller, Chief Deputy Supenski, Chief John Perry, Officer Joe Henry and myself. Senator Rich Alloway is also co-sponsoring the event. Specific plans have not been finalized; but you can plan on great day with good friends, good food and entertainment.

This Adams County Law Enforcement Training Range has been on the wish list of Adams County Law Enforcement officers for 15 years. In cooperation with the Adams County Law Enforcement Association and the Adams County Sheriff's Department, the current Board has agreed

to support the range as long as county tax dollars are not the primary funding source. By building and facilitating public/private partnerships, I believe we can achieve that goal. The range will be leased to The Adams County Law Enforcement Association.



Having spent 30 years on Federal Law Enforcement training ranges, I understand there is a need for a law enforcement training range that is not simply a point & shoot range. Ideally, a law enforcement training range allows effective point & shoot, barricade, moving barricade, shoot /don't-shoot and vehicle ambush situations to name just some of the training scenarios. The recent shooting event at the prison personifies the stark reality. We are in the process of meeting Straban Township zoning requirements and will keep you abreast of progress. We are hopeful to have the range completed within one year. The safety of our emergency re-

The END

Now that the Primary Election is history - we can all get back to being fully engaged in the primary task of serving the residents of Adams County with no distractions. Reflecting on the last several months, I am so proud that this is a full-time Board that has been out there every day, evenings and weekends, all over Adams County, meeting with and working for the residents for the past 3 ½ years. Folks ask me if being Adams County Commissioner is a full-time job. My answer is "No.... it is not, if you are fully committed, it is more than a full-time job." I would like to recognize the full Board for that commitment!



Many communities in Adams County have a Memorial Day Remembrance this weekend. Although the Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade in Gettysburg is probably the largest and most noted, services in our smaller communities are very poignant and should not be missed. I guarantee you will walk away re-energized with a deep sense of pride in our country, county and community.

Folks enjoy the long weekend. No matter what you do - get out there and take advantage of all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

UPDATE

The Information Technology Department along with Mr. Andrew Hacker, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, from the Pennsylvania Governor's Office of Administration presented the topic "Cyber Security" during the May Senior Management meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to create awareness through education on the importance of Cyber Security. The Information Technology Department will begin working with individual departments to implement best practices to prevent the potential of data breaches and ensure the integrity of the County's information. The effort will provide annual security training to departments, highlighting current threats and how breaches can be prevented through safe computer use practices. The training will be used in conjunction with the recently approved Information Technology Policies and Procedures.

Additionally, the department has been working with Mount Saint Mary's University and their internship program on the development of a database project. The project will involve creating a database from an existing Microsoft Excel file. The new database system will contain municipal land use information. Future phases of the project will include the development software applications and reporting capabilities to review and extract the information for analytical purposes. The initial database development effort was completed in May. The next phase of the project will begin in the fall and will also utilize an internship program for resources.

In addition to the aforementioned, a video conferencing (telepresence) pilot project is currently in process. The pilot project will include the use of new technology developed by the Cisco Corporation, utilizing cloud video technologies. The anticipated participants in this project include the Courts, District Attorney, Public Defender, Prison, and Sheriff's office. The project will utilize various technologies that will be used in different work and process environments throughout the County. The pilot project will provide information for assessment and evaluation for possible future use. The goal of the assessment will be to determine if the technology can be an effective means to eliminate costly, manual processes and improve productivity and efficiency.