

## Mount Joy Memorial Day Parade

Saturday, May 24 · 2 pm

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## Veterans of Foreign Wars



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#### Letter from the Mayor

#### BOROUGH OF MOUNT JOY

21 EAST MAIN STREET MOUNT JOY, PENNSYLVANIA 17552



From the Office of: Timothy D. Bradley, Jr. Mayor

INCORPORATED 1851

May 24, 2025

RE: Memorial Day Parade Welcome

Dear Participants and Citizens,

On behalf of the community of the Borough of Mount Joy, I would like to welcome you and your family to the Mount Joy Area Memorial Day Parade. Our parade has become the largest and best known Memorial Day parade in Lancaster County. Originating in the late 1800's, the Borough of Mount Joy has a wellestablished tradition honoring those lost in the defense of this nation. This year the theme of our parade is They Gave Their Tomorrow For Our Today. This reminds us of the many sacrifices that so many have given for the many freedoms we enjoy today.

As you spend time with loved ones and enjoy the diversity of parade participants, I would request that you take a moment to reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and the burden their families have experienced through the years as a result. I thank you again for your participation in the festivities, and I would like to express my gratitude to all who made this event possible.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Bradley, Jr.

Mayor

#### **Honorary Grand Marshal**

#### Skip Walsh





Corporal
United States Marine Corps
Third Marine Amphibious Force (IIIMAF)

I grew up in Lake Ronkonkoma and St. James Long Island, New York; the eldest of six children. My dad was a sergeant in the Suffolk County Police Department and my mom worked as a supervisor of the Suffolk County Probation Department. Long Island was a great place to grow up with many small communities where people knew and trusted their neighbors. As youngsters in the 50's, most of us had fathers who served in WWII and were now raising the next generation in what they hoped would be peace and prosperity.

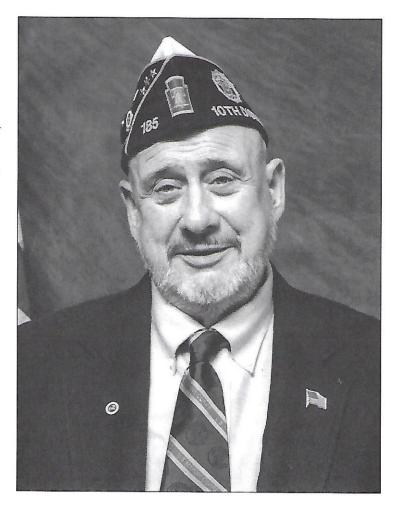
My parents sent me to Catholic school from first through sixth grade; and then public school for junior and senior high school. Growing up, we didn't have a lot. When not in school, I was out in the fresh air from early morning to dusk. My friends and I made good use of the lake and the beaches (they were free), and we hunted small game in season.

When I was old enough to work, I got a job as a caddy at the local golf course. This gave me a life long love of the game.

After I graduated in 1965, I enrolled at a community college but after two semesters was quite bored. The Vietnam War was escalating and I sought advice from my favorite uncle. Uncle Bob was a Marine in the Pacific during WWII. He was listed as MIA for about six months but was found after the Japanese left the island. Uncle Bob believed that the Marines had the best training. He credits his survival to the training he received.

On reflection, I decided to enlist so that I could choose the Marine Corps. After basic I was sent to Intelligence School, and volunteered for service in Vietnam. My assignment was to an Intelligence Unit as a photo interpretor. I was lucky as my second MOS was forward observer. I served 13 months in Da Nang and came home safely to my young wife, who I had married 10 days before deployment. Two years later we welcomed our son. Unfortunately, I changed a lot and my marriage ended, but I remained close to my son.

I tried a couple of sales jobs and decided it would be better to be self-employed. I opened my own pest control business and retired in 2007 after 34 years in business.



After some years, I remarried and gained a daughter, whom I helped raise. Both of my children are grown and enjoying life.

On retirement, we moved from New York to Pennsylvania. We've settled well into retirement. In 2008 I joined the VFW and then the American Legion Post 185, Mount Joy. In 2011 I became Post 185 Commander, serving through 2017; and again from 2021 through 2023.

I was honored to be District 10 Commander 2023 to 2024 and District Vice Commander 2024 to the present; as well as Chair of the Hospital and Convalescence and Membership Committees. Currently I serve as District 10 Deputy Commander.

My service keeps me busy and I enjoy helping the community and my fellow veterans, and plan to continue serving as long as my health allows.

#### **Past Honorary Grand Marshals**

#### 2024

Joe Coover

| 2023                     | 2009                | 1999             |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| George Leyh              | Jay R. Snyder       | Legion Commander |
|                          |                     | Bob Koser        |
| 2022                     | 2008                | VFW Commander    |
| Jerry Berrier            | Curt L. Smith and   | Joe Montalvo     |
|                          | Paul G. Smith       |                  |
| 2020 & 2021              |                     | 1998             |
| No Parades               | 2007                | H. Stanley Wills |
|                          | George Broske       |                  |
| 2019                     |                     | 1997             |
| Charles W. Heaps         | 2006                | Kitty Updegraff  |
|                          | Eugene Funk         |                  |
| 2018                     | Robert Funk         | 1996             |
| Jacqueline Newcomer      | Merlin Funk         | Mount Joy VFW    |
|                          | Jack Funk           | Post 5752        |
| 2017                     | Oliver Funk         |                  |
| Jay M. Eberly            | Frank Funk          | 1995             |
|                          | Russell Funk        | Mount Joy WWII   |
| 2016                     | Ronald Funk         | Veterans         |
| Robert W. Bretz          |                     |                  |
|                          | 2005                | 1994             |
| 2015                     | Roy Armold          | No Parade        |
| James F. Young           |                     |                  |
|                          | 2004                | 1993             |
| 2014                     | Gerald Roy Sheetz   | Lillian Eby      |
| Albert W. Whalen         |                     |                  |
|                          | 2003                | 1992             |
| 2013                     | Rain Out            | James Heilig     |
| Warren H. Greenawalt Jr. |                     |                  |
|                          | 2002                | 1991             |
| 2012                     | Martin Brown        | Anne Milanof     |
| Lloyd R. Swarr           |                     |                  |
|                          | 2001                | 1990             |
| 2011                     | Rain Out            | Ken Depoe        |
| Harold W. Billow         |                     |                  |
|                          | 2000                | 1989             |
| 2010                     | Irvin H. Smith, Jr. | Joseph Shaeffer  |
| Donna Hershey            |                     |                  |

#### **Parade Committee Letter**

Mount Joy Memorial Day Parade, Inc. PO Box 55 Mount Joy, PA 17552

May 24, 2025

To the Mount Joy Community and Visitors,

Welcome to the 2025 Mount Joy Memorial Day Parade! The parade committee is excited to once again bring a great parade to the community. It is rewarding to see that this time-honored tradition continues.

The Mount Joy parade has become the largest and oldest in Lancaster County. It draws between 2,000 and 5,000 people to our Main Street each year. With its origin in the late 1800's, it has a long tradition of providing a fitting remembrance to those men and women who sacrificed their lives for the freedom we enjoy today. We also pray for the men and women who are now serving to defend these freedoms.

This year's theme is: They Gave Their Tomorrow For Our Today

We would like to say THANK YOU to the individuals, businesses and community organizations who have contributed to the parade. Without them, the parade would cease to exist. Parade expenses are approximately \$15,000, the majority of which are for the bands that participate. Please consider patronizing and thanking the businesses that have placed ads in this program booklet.

The Mount Joy Memorial Day Parade takes many hours of work to produce. The parade committee has worked extremely hard to make this event happen as the process begins 9 to 10 months before the actual parade.

One goal of the committee is to continue to grow the parade. If you, your business or someone you know is interested in participating in the 2026 parade, please contact us at MJMDPC@gmail.com You can also follow us on Facebook.

Respectfully,

John Coleman, Sr. Denny Brandt Chris Brandt Josh Deering Brenda Kready

#### Special Thanks

In addition to the businesses who placed ads in this souvenir book, the parade committee would also like to thank the following people and businesses for their generous donations to the parade. Without the support of our community, this annual parade would not be possible.

Contributions to Parade

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#### PARADE COMMITTEE

John Coleman, Sr. Chris Brandt Denny Brandt Josh Deering Brenda Kready

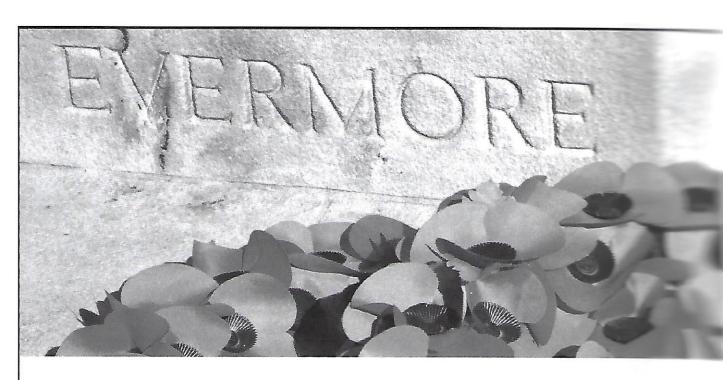
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Paul L. Gardner, Supervisor

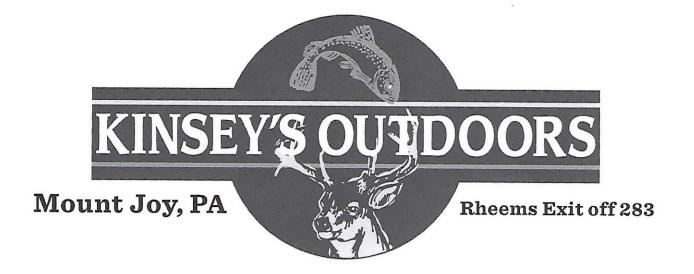
MANHEIM 665-4341

Aaron S. Abbott, Supervisor

626-2464

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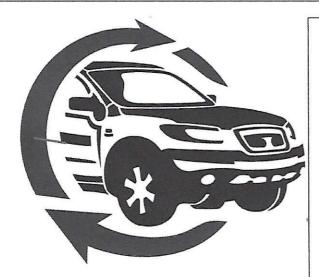
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Mount Joy Borough Mayor - Timothy Bradley

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Mastersonville Volunteer Fire Company

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General RV Center

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Hempfield Fire Department

The Patriot

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Free & Accepted Masons

Giant - Etown & Mount Joy

Ferko String Band

Parade Committee

The Wenger Group, LLC

Rheems Fire Company

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

#### Lineup order may change due to last minute cancellations or additions

15

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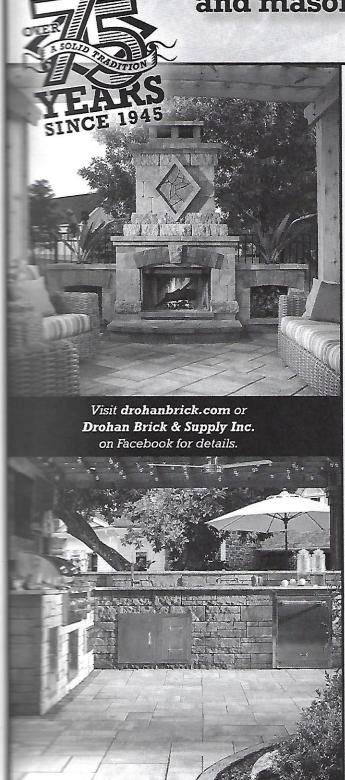




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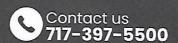
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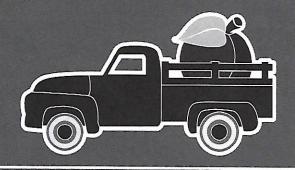
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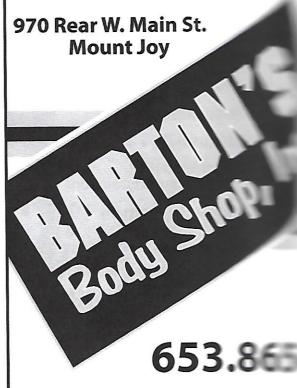
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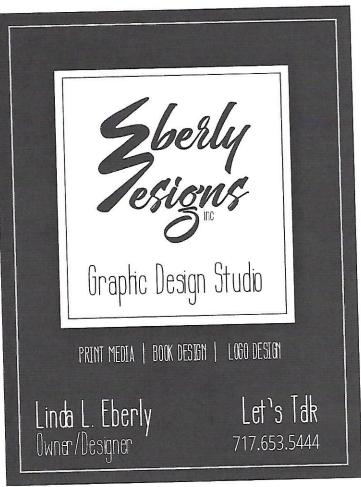
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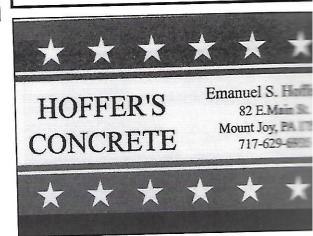
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