Not Forgotten

Tucked away in the White Deer Valley near the county’s southern border in Brady Township, behind the locked gates near the Allenwood Federal Correctional Complex, stands Christ’s Lutheran Church, known locally as the Stone Church.

With the cooperation of Jerry Martinez, warden of the Allenwood FCI Low Security Facility and Kerry Appel, FCC Programs Coordinator/Community Liaison, Montgomery Area Historical Society’s vice president Doug Snyder invited local scouting organizations to assist in a spring cleanup of the Stone Church and its adjoining cemetery.

Above: Steven Baney of Montgomery Cub Scout Pack 29 replaces flags at the graves of Revolutionary War veterans John Ten Brook, Alex Simms, John Huling, and Arch Eason. (Photo courtesy of Paul Metzger)
NOT FORGOTTEN

Continued from page 1

This program was initially suggested by Karen Hogsten, former warden of the Allenwood FCI Low and Medium Security Facilities.

Participating in the cleanup on Saturday, April 5, were scouts Tucker Gordner, Tim Cuddeback, and scout leader Nevin Gordner from Montgomery Boy Scout Troop 28 as well as Ed Palmeter, scout leader from the Watsontown Boy Scout Troop 610. Steve Baney, Paul Stryker, and Gloria Diggan assisted Cub Scouts Collin Hahn, Steven Baney, Jackson Stryker, Travis Diggan, and Kyle Rupert and leader, Tammy Rupert, of the Montgomery Cub Pack 29 and their leader, Tammy Rupert.

In addition to clearing dead foliage and brush, raking leaves, and straightening monuments, the group replaced flags at the graves of all war veterans. Provided by the Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office, these flags are 36 of more than 17,400 that are placed on veteran graves throughout the county before Memorial Day.

At the Stone Church cemetery, there are graves for twenty Civil War veterans, eleven Revolutionary War veterans, four veterans of the War of 1812, and one WWI veteran. Although the cemetery and church are no longer open to the public, the property has not been forgotten. Thanks to the efforts of the staff at the Allenwood FCC, the Montgomery Area Historical Society, and area scout troops, through a program that is planned to be an annual event, the church and cemetery grounds can be maintained in their current good condition. The last public service held at Christ’s Lutheran Church was on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1942, about a month after the War Department announced plans for building a munitions plant on the approximately 8,000 acres purchased by the federal government.

If you or your group would like to help replace flags at veteran gravesites at a Lycoming County cemetery, please contact your local VFW or American Legion post or the Lycoming County Veterans Affairs office at 320-8157 to volunteer.

NOTE: This article, which was written by Joan Blank, originally appeared in the Muncy Luminary, 4/23/08.
Persian Gulf Veterans
Bonus Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is now accepting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans’ Benefit Program.

How to Apply

Complete an official application, which are available at our office at 330 Pine Street, Suite 104, Williamsport, PA 17701 or online at: http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2571.htm

Documents Needed for Submitting Applications:

Service Record:

- Certified DD214 / Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty documenting receipt of the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the dates in Theater.
- Certified Military Records for individuals who are still on active duty.

Proof of Pennsylvania Residency at Time of Service:

- DD214 (Block 7b Veteran Home of Record)
- Tax Return (State and/or Federal)
- DoD Leave and Earning Statements

Proof of Relationship: If you are applying on behalf of a veteran, you must provide proof of your relationship to the veteran.

- Spouse: Marriage Certificate
- Child: Birth Certificate for all surviving children
- Parent: Veteran's Birth Certificate
- Representative: Proof of authorization to represent

Where to Send Applications:

Send completed application and supporting document(s) to:

Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans’ Benefit Program
PO Box 1109
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1109

For more information, please see: http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/2564.htm or contact the Lycoming County VA Office at 327-2365.
The US Army and Dave Bellomo present
The First Annual
Ultimate Athlete Challenge

Loylasock High School Football Stadium
Sunday, May 4th, 1pm-4pm

Join us Sunday May 4th, from 1PM - 4PM and see teams of student athletes from local area high schools compete in the first annual Ultimate Athlete Challenge.

This event focuses on promoting sportsmanship, physical fitness, and good community relations.

Each team will be made up of four students with at least 1 female student per team.

EVENTS INCLUDE
• tractor tire flip for time and distance • bench press
• team HUM-VEE push • 40 meter run • farmers carry
• stone carry for time and distance

The school of the winning team will receive an Army scholarship of $1,500 and a team trophy to be passed on to next year’s winner. All teams placing 1st-3rd will receive medals.

CALL DAVE BELLOMO at 321-5339
for more details and information
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Christopher P. Carney testified today to the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health about his bipartisan legislation, H.R. 5595, the Make our Veterans Smile Act.

“I am pleased that our legislation is moving forward,” said Congressman Carney, a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve who still does two weeks of active duty each year. “This hearing is the first step to bring meaningful reform to dental benefits for our disabled veterans.”

The Make our Veterans Smile Act will expand dental care offered by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to all service connected disabled veterans. Currently, the VA does not provide dental services to disabled veterans who are 90% or less disabled. The Make Our Veterans Smile Act will fix this problem by allowing all service connected veterans to receive dental care through the VA. This will add another 1,075,000 disabled veterans to the VA dental program.

“As someone who still wears the uniform, I know that more needs to be done for our veterans and our military families, this starts with improving access to quality health care. The VA has done an excellent job of providing dental services to those that are able to receive them and the VA should continue to provide these services. I believe we have a moral obligation to care for these veterans,” said Congressman Carney.

“We must ensure that disabled veterans from wars past are also given every tool to find and keep a meaningful job and this includes dental care,” said Carney.

Then legislation is supported by the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, the Navy Reserve Association, the Air Force Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, AMVETS and Disabled American Veterans.
Korean War Veteran Stories Sought

By DAVID THOMPSON dthompson@sungazette.com
reprinted from the April 1, 2008 Williamsport Sun Gazette

The Korean War has been called “the forgotten war,” but a local veterans group wants to make sure Korean War veterans are never forgotten. The Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County is accepting and compiling information about county residents who served during the Korean conflict, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. The group intends to publish the stories in a book.

“Our goal is to get the stories of everybody in the area who has been in the Korean War, whether state-side or overseas,” William Witmer, member of the organization’s board of directors and public information officer, said Monday. “We want to know in a brief, one- or two-page resume what their duties consisted of, the rank they attained — their whole career in the military, including photos,” Witmer said. The organization already has compiled information on some veterans, but hundreds of others who served have stories that never may be told, he said.

“We want to ensure that as many Korean War veterans as possible are represented in the book,” he said.

Although the stories of veterans may not seem important today, they will once those veterans have died and their stories become lost forever, Witmer said. “Once they die, those memories will be gone. We want to preserve history,” he said. Time is running out. The Korean War began only five years after the end of World War II, so those who served during the war are in their twilight years and may not have long to tell their stories, he said.

“We’re in the yellow light of the stop light,” he said. The Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County was formed in 1997 as an offshoot of another organization. According to to Fred Schaefer, president of the organization, five charter members — Schaefer, Howard Wilt, William Welter, John Kellenstine and William Kast — met and decided to found the group.

The Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County. We had no money, so we each threw in $20 to get a post office box and some stamps.” Kast was the group’s original commander, Wilt was treasurer, Welter, secretary and Schaefer, chaplain, Schaefer said. Kast, Welter and Kellenstine have since died. The group today has about 270 members. They meet at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month in an old Lewis Township schoolhouse across the road from the Steam Valley Restaurant in Trout Run, Witmer said. The hourlong meetings are open to any Korean War veteran, he said.

The organization raises money through a popular 50-50 raffle, Witmer said. Except for fundraising to erect a monument at the Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park on West Fourth Street, the group has never solicited donations, he said. One of the most visible parts of the organization is the Korean War Veterans Honor Guard, a group that attends the funerals of veterans, regardless of when they served. The honor guard, which was formed in 1999, recently surpassed its 700th funeral. William Emig was largely responsible for the honor guard’s formation, Schaefer said. “He put a lot of work into the honor guard,” he said. The group also does presentations for Memorial Day ceremonies, schools, nursing homes, churches and civic organizations, Schaefer said. The presentation includes a flag-folding, during which the symbolism of each of the 13 folds are explained. “We have different things to say. It might be a poem or something we read out of a history book,” Witmer said.

Those who want to submit information for the book may send it to Bill Witmer, 2077 Sheridan St., Williamsport PA 17701. For more information, they may call him at 323-6066.
2008 “GOD, COUNTRY, AND COMMUNITY”
FLAG MARCH
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
Join Us On Saturday, June 14, 2008

* Saturday, June 14, 2008
  Registration from 5:30pm to 6:00pm
  Judging will be at 6:00pm
  March begins promptly at 6:15pm
  National Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm at Penn College

* Participants will meet at Hepburn & Fourth Sts. Parking Lot (Across from Water Authority), march West on Fourth St. to Penn College.

* Advance Registration is requested by June 7, 2008 by calling (570) 327-7566 or Email Christy at mayor@cityofwilliamsport.org

* Trophies, Flags, and the Repas Band Concert, Patriotic Flag/Banner Presentation, lots of fun and fellowship will all be part of this event. An added attraction this year will be a Picnic following the program. PLEASE DON’T MISS IT!!!

* All organizations are encouraged to bring their banners/flags and their American Flags.

* Trophies will be awarded for:
  - Largest Scout Group, Largest Youth Group, Largest Family Group,
    Largest Fraternal Group, Largest Church Group, and Best Decorated
    Stroller or Wagon, Choice Trophy (Tony Award)

* We encourage all to come and join us support our Flag and our Troops Here and Abroad

Sponsored By
Susquehanna Council Boy Scouts of America
Along with Wegmans, Coca Cola, Lamar Adv., Sun-Gazette, Humdinger and
the City of Williamsport

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OUR GOAL IS 1,000 MARCHERS FOR THIS YEAR'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY MARCH
The PA CareerLink—Lycoming County office is located at 145 West Third Street in Williamsport and is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Please feel free to contact either of the Veteran Employment Representatives for assistance.

♦ Mack Duncan Jr. is the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) responsible for providing employment assistance to all labor exchange eligible veterans and eligible persons. Phone: 570-601-5942
♦ Allen Hubler is the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist responsible for providing employment assistance to all labor exchange eligible veterans and eligible persons with specific emphasis to disabled veterans. Phone: 570-601-5934
♦ Or check online at www.cwds.state.pa.us.

**Vet Center**

The Vet Center is located at Suite 104, 49 East Fourth Street, Williamsport, next to the James V. Brown Library. Phone 327-5281. All services provided by the Vet Center are FREE OF CHARGE. These include readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members. These include:

- individual counseling
- group counseling
- marital and family counseling
- bereavement counseling
- substance abuse information and referral
- referral in applying for VA Benefits
- referral for job counseling and educational VA benefits
- referral for homeless vets
- military sexual trauma (male and female) counseling & referral
- outreach and community education

**VA Outpatient Clinic**

The VA Outpatient Clinic was established July 1997 on the Campus of Divine Providence Hospital in the Wenner Building, 1705 Warren Avenue, Suite 304, Williamsport, PA

**Phone:** 570-322-4791  **Fax:** 570-322-5170  **Open:** Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Scheduled appointments only  ~  No Emergency Services/No walk-ins

**Services Include:** Primary Care, Enrollment/Eligibility forms, Psychiatry, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Social Services, Counseling, Lab, Nutrition services, and Immunizations.

The VA Clinic has a social worker at the clinic on Tuesday and Thursday. Her name is Chris Veach; please call the clinic at (570) 322-4791 to schedule an appointment.
## COUNTY VA Office ~ Outreach Schedule

To make it more convenient for veterans living in the eastern and western parts of the county, the VA Office comes to you! Feel free to stop in at the following locations on the following dates:

**Tuesday, May 12 - 1:00 to 4:00 PM—Muncy Outreach:**
Don Cohick will be at the VFW Post 3428
Edward J. Smith Post, 12 North Market Street, Muncy, PA

~ NO OUTREACH IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE OR JULY ~

**Tuesday, August 12 - 1:00 to 4:00 PM—Jersey Shore Outreach:**
Don Cohick will be at the American Legion Post 36, George Webster Pepperman,
320 Seminary Street, Jersey Shore, PA

### AM. Legion, VFW & Other County Veteran Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Legion Post 1</strong> - Garrett Cochran</td>
<td>10 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Phone: 570-323-9409</td>
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<td>Lloyd Brooks, Adjutant</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 35</strong> - Glenn Sharrow</td>
<td>78 N. Main St., Hughesville, PA 17737</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-584-2123</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 36</strong> - George Webster Pepperman</td>
<td>P.O. Box 211, Jersey Shore, PA 17740</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-398-4174</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 104</strong> - Eugene Grafius</td>
<td>1312 Broad St., Montoursville, PA 17754</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-368-8234</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 251</strong> - Bower Decker</td>
<td>185 Broad St., Montgomery, PA 17752</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-547-2039</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 268</strong> - Roland Ritter</td>
<td>515 Legion Rd., Muncy, PA 17756</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-546-5210</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 617</strong> - Royal P. Steinbacher</td>
<td>901 Market Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-327-0255</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gail Eppler, Commander</td>
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<td>Adjutant &amp; Secretary (position open)</td>
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<td><strong>VFW Post 3428</strong> - Edward J. Smith Post</td>
<td>12 N Market St., Muncy, PA 17756</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-546-3820</td>
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<td><strong>American Legion Post 999</strong> - West Branch Service Post</td>
<td>Michael J. Jones, Commander; Phone: 323-9421</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 1971, 1061 John Brady Rd., Pennsdale, PA 17756</td>
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<td>George Diffenbaugh, Adjutant; Phone: 570-546-6508</td>
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<td>Meets at the Montoursville Presbyterian Church</td>
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<td>900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA 17754</td>
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<td><strong>VFW Post 5859</strong> - Billy O. Brandt Post</td>
<td>201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-398-2801</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VFW Post 7863</strong> - Le Roy O. Buck Post</td>
<td>150 Shaffer St., South Williamsport, PA 17702</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-323-9195</td>
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<td><strong>VFW Post 844</strong> - Howard W. Kahler Post</td>
<td>1260 West 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
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<td><strong>Veterans of the Vietnam War – Post PA 51</strong></td>
<td>P.O. Box 23, Hughesville, PA 17737</td>
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<td>Web site: <a href="http://www.vvnw.org/postpa-51">www.vvnw.org/postpa-51</a></td>
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<td>Commander: Randall Sayman</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-547-6527</td>
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<td><strong>Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>P. O. Box 3232, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
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<td>Commander Fred Schaefer</td>
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<td>Phone: 570-323-5627</td>
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<td><strong>Williamsport Detachment 388</strong></td>
<td>Marine Corp League Inc.</td>
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<td>P. O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
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<td>Contact: Robert Mosley; Phone: 570-322-4727</td>
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LYCOMING COUNTY
OFFICE OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Suite 104
Executive Plaza Building
330 Pine Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Mailing Address:
48 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REBECCA A. BURKE, CHAIR
ERNEST P. LARSON, VICE CHAIR
JEFF C. WHEELAND, SECRETARY

We are here to help you . . .

1 SG Donald L. Cohick (Ret.)
Lycoming County Director of Veterans Affairs

570-327-2365  dcohick@lyco.org

- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- Twenty-seven years combined military service

Joan C. Blank
Administrative Specialist

570-320-8157
jblank@lyco.org

Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL

570-320-2100

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Closed weekends and major holidays.

Do you have announcements or information to share?

The Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs invites you to submit articles and items of interest to be published in the next edition of The Lycoming Vet, which are published quarterly on the first of August, November, February, and May. Deadline for article submissions are the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

For questions or to make submissions, please contact Joan Blank at the Veterans Affairs Office.

Visit our Web site:
www.lyco.org/VA
for up-to-date news and information for veterans

The Lycoming Vet is published quarterly by the Office of Veterans Affairs in Lycoming County, PA

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