



NEWS

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Montgomery County Commissioners Join American Gold Star Mothers in Replacement of “Hometown Heroes” Banners On Montgomery County Courthouse Plaza

Norristown, PA (September 27, 2016) – The Montgomery County Commissioners joined American Gold Star Mothers and the families of 17 Montgomery County veterans who gave their lives in service to the country at a ceremony to honor these veterans and replace their banners on the Montgomery County Courthouse Plaza on Tuesday, September 27th.

The original banners were installed in 2008 and have become worn over time. The local chapters of American Gold Star Mothers and the Montgomery County Veterans Affairs Department decided to update the banners out of respect and recognition for the lives lost by these “Hometown Heroes.”

“Today we honor and remember 17 men who gave their lives in service to our country. These men – true heroes – left behind families that do not let a day go by without thinking about their sons, their husbands, their dads. We have replaced the banners of these Montgomery County heroes with new vibrant symbols of their service,” said Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Chair Josh Shapiro. “These banners represent the sacrifice of these men and the sacrifice of their families.”

The 17 “Hometown Heroes” honored on the banners are: John Bubeck, Paul Karpowich, Kurt Krout, John Kulick, Joseph Maglione III, Jake Moletzsky, Mark Phelan, Nathan Raudenbush, Eric Shellenberger, Anthony Sherman, Marc Small, Tristen Smith, Travis Stottlemyer, Jeff Toczykowski, John Todd III, Brandon VanParys, and Travis Zimmerman.

America’s Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is an organization of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in service to the country. A Veterans Service Organization, they continue to honor these sons and daughters through service to veterans and patriotic events.

“We thank the leaders of our local chapters of America’s Gold Star Mothers. They work tirelessly to honor the sons and daughters who have served our country. We are proud to work with them and to recognize all the men and women who have served and who continue to serve,” said Val Arkoosh, Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

The veterans honored on the “Hometown Heroes” banners were from all corners of Montgomery County. They served in the Army, the Navy, the Marines, and the Coast Guard. The banners will remain on permanent display on the Montgomery County Courthouse Plaza as a reminder of their service and their sacrifice.

“Honoring our veterans and their families is a core responsibility of being an American citizen. We must look to honor them not only symbolically, like we are doing with these banners, but in our everyday lives,” said Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Gale. “We should always be reminded of the roles we play as elected officials and citizens and how they impact the lives of our veterans and their families.”

The Montgomery County Department of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to ensuring those who served in the Armed forces and their families have access to the benefits and services to which they are entitled. Veterans in need of assistance may call the Montgomery County Veterans Affairs Department at 610-278-3285.