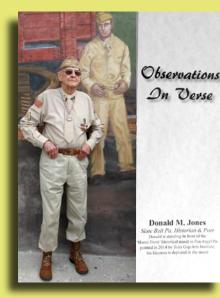
# A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones <u>Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times</u>



### IT'S REALLY GREAT TO BE ALIVE

It's really great to be alive, Whether retired or nine-to-five. For life is such a wonderful thing, Full of the joys that make the heart sing.

And though there may be war and strife, I'll make the most of my God given life. And while standing with others in the ranks, Lift up my head and express my thanks.



## Signs Of Our Times

Continued from page 1

In Northampton County, we don't panic, we prepare. We want to assure our citizens that their County government will stay open. In order to insure our continuity of operations, we have issued a Declaration of Local Emergency. It is imperative, that Gracedale, Northampton County Prison and Emergency Management have all of the tools in the tool box at their disposal. This Declaration does that.

While this Declaration does potentially have implications for the wider County community, with respect to the coordination of local response efforts and in supporting any state and/or federal government responses in the County, the intent of this Declaration, for now, is meant to be limited to the continuing operation of County government. Should the necessity to broaden the scope of the Emergency become necessary we will communicate with the public as quickly and transparently as possible.

Emergency Management Director Todd Weaver and myself have been in touch with the Governor's Office and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to explain why we have taken this action. The Commonwealth has been very supportive of our local efforts and continues to be in light of this Declaration.

We are very likely closer to the beginning of this event than the end. We want people to stay calm. Intensify your hand washing. Understand that for a little while our lives are going to be lived a little differently. But, by making this Declaration we hope to further limit the risk to residents of Gracedale and Northampton County Prison as well giving Gracedale and Emergency Management maximum flexibility in dealing with this Emergency.

#### Slate Belt Branch of the Greater Valley YMCA

In the wake of recent government announcements and mandated closures, the Y has decided to temporarily close our facilities until further notice, effective as of tomorrow 3/16. However, all Y Branches and the Forks Education Center will continue to operate Early Childhood Education, Preschool Programming and temporary School Age Child Care as long as we may do so safely, responsibly and in line with prevailing public health advisement. Other essential services including our Allentown Warming Station and our free Youth Meals Programming will continue to operate for as long as possible. We thank you for your support of the Y during this unprecedented time.

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