

# Honoring 120 Years of Service at Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder

By Senator Rosemary Brown

SAYLORSBURG - Last weekend, I joined the Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder Volunteer Fire Department to celebrate an incredible milestone — 120 years of dedicated service to our community.

It was a truly special event, filled with pride and tradition. The department did a phenomenal job showcasing its rich history, with powerful photos highlighting past firefighters, equipment, and fire trucks that tell the story of their legacy.

I was also honored to recognize Chief Leon Clapper for his remarkable 35 years of leadership and service to this exceptional team. His commitment is a shining example of what it means to serve with heart, strength, and integrity.

Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder Company in Saylorsburg, PA, celebrated its 120th anniversary with a Fireman's Festival on July 19th. The event, took place at Mazezilla, with family fun, live music, delicious food, raffles, and more. The celebration honors the company's 120 years of service to the community.

The Blue Ridge Hook & Ladder Company is reflecting on its past while also looking forward to the next 120 years. The company acknowledges the contributions of past and present members, their families, and the community. They are committed to continuing their tradition of courage, compassion, and commitment.

## Clean Team Workforce July Employee of the Month

By Stefanie Appel

(ALLENTOWN, PA) – The Clean Team Workforce proudly announced its Employee of the Month for July, Jay C. Jay graduated from the Allentown Rescue Mission's Transformation Program in September 2023. He worked for the Clean Team Workforce after graduating and excelled from the first day. Jay possessed a strong work ethic and valuable skills to succeed.

With warehouse and forklift experience, he found full-time employment with an outside company after only a few weeks working for the Clean Team Workforce. Shortly thereafter, he moved into an apartment and started living independently. Unfortunately, after a little over a year, Jay fell back into old habits and began using drugs. Eventually, his money disappeared, and he was evicted from his apartment. He spent time living with relatives, sleeping on the couch, but knew he had to stop the landslide that was happening in his life.

Jay gave notice to his employer that he needed to step away to get his life in order. He then stopped using drugs, sought counseling, and came back to the Allentown Rescue Mission. As a former, good-standing Clean Team Workforce employee, Jay was immediately rehired and brought back into the Mission. For men like Jay, the Clean Team Workforce acts as a safety net to help former employees who are experiencing difficult times reenter the workforce. Men returning to the Clean Team Workforce are eligible to receive all the benefits the Mission offers.

Working for the Clean Team Workforce again, Jay has been motivated and an exceptional employee. He is skilled for any job the Clean Team Workforce is hired to do, but "I really like landscaping and doing hard work," Jay said. He has been an asset to the Clean Team Workforce and has been sincere in getting his life back on track. The Allentown Rescue Mission congratulates Jay for being nominated as Employee of the Month and wishes him the best for his future. Jay hopes to one day own a small business and property to build a home, but most of all, he wants to be a good provider and father to his two kids.



L-R Chief Leon Clapper, Senator Rosemary Brown

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#### CONTACT

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afors1@wm.com  
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#### EVENT TIMES

Check-In: 9:45 AM  
Event Begins: 10:00 AM  
Event Ends: 12:00 PM

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Guests must wear closed toed shoes. WM support will be on site directing traffic. Please follow the directional signage for parking.

**CAMPUS BUS TOUR:** Please indicate if you plan to join us for the tour immediately following the ribbon cutting.

RSVP BY: September 8, 2025