



United States Army Master Sergeant Stephan C. Potsko addresses the crowd at the National Museum of Industrial History on Veterans Day



Family members of Raymond Rosati Jr., who envisioned the memorial, are honored by Frank Behum Sr., right, at the ceremony



## Veterans

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son, Nathan, his granddaughter, Hannah, and his grandson, Dante. Thomas Marrero, a fellow steelworker and Mr. Rosati's brother-in-law, was also in attendance.

An invocation by committee member John Solotwa and the presenting of colors by Lehigh University's ROTC Color Guard began the ceremony. Richard G. Schimmel, a WWII veteran and survivor of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, was the guest of honor for the day. Schimmel, a native of Allentown, was a member of the Army Air Corps' Signal Aircraft Warning Company. He took questions from the crowd and said of his experience at Pearl Harbor that, "We had one thing in mind – to do our job."

Dignitaries included Pennsylvania Representative Mike Schlossberg, who delivered remarks. "I have found that these moments are not only about one individual, but it's also about honoring something bigger...so I am here today to not only say thank you but to do so on behalf of every elected official in Pennsylvania." Pennsylvania Representative Peter Schweyer also spoke, recounting his father's personal struggles following his service in Vietnam. "When we think about Veterans Day, I don't want to just think about and just honor the sacrifices that our individual service men and women have made, because their families go through so much. So, as I'm looking out to our veterans and to our active service men and women here, I also want to thank all of their family members." Sabrina McLaughlin, a staff member from Congresswoman Susan Wild's office, also delivered brief remarks on behalf of Representative Wild.

The ceremony's keynote speaker was United States Army Master Sergeant Stephan C. Potsko. Sergeant Potsko, a Military Science Instructor at Lehigh University and an Iraq War veteran, serves as Assistant Director at Lehigh University's

Vistex Institute for Executive Learning and Research.

"Times change, and the world changes around us. We feel as though part of our own history is fading around us, so we look to those elements that are persistent, things like this Veterans Memorial," said Potsko. "In just about a week it will be a full 25 years since the furnaces here at the mill went cold for good. The 'last cast', as it's known, signaled the end of an era, but not the end of the memories of those who lived it."

Potsko continued, "Even though some fixtures of Bethlehem Steel, like Martin Tower, are gone, the memories and stories of the steel plant remain, preserved and maintained by organizations like the National Museum of Industrial History. In a real and tangible way, the stories of our veterans will be preserved by rededicating this memorial and rededicating our efforts to remember and honor those who served."

He concluded by saying Lehigh University's ROTC program, in existence for over 100 years, is nicknamed the 'Steel Battalion', and, "like steel, we build the future and protect what we cherish."

Tim "Sarge" Parsons, president of the Lehigh Valley chapter of the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club, presented the Steelworkers Veterans Memorial Committee with a \$1,000 check to aid in the upkeep of the memorial. The committee also presented the Bethlehem Mounted Police with a check for \$200 to thank them for their assistance in traffic and crowd control over the years.

The Steelworkers Veterans Memorial Committee currently includes Donald Trexler, Frank Behum, Frank Ferencin, Tom Marrero, William Wiessner, Barry Trexler, Dan Zrinski, John Solotwa, Lester Clore, Richard Sterner, James "Duke" Snyder, James McAndrew, and Charlie Korpics.

Emeritus members include Howard Breisch, Ray Rosati Jr., Paul Coachys, Robert Burky, Charles Shankweiler, Richard McLaughlin, Louis Falcone, Leo Keim, and Bill Seydl.

## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

### If you don't Choose, You Lose

When it comes time to choose a replacement for your heating system there are a lot of options to consider. These options should be presented to the homeowner for review.

Too many times a contractor will replace a furnace with the exact same size and type of furnace without ever checking into the dozens of things that have changed since the existing system was installed.

That is grossly unfair to the homeowner and is done only because either the contractor wants a quick sale or they are not informed about the benefits of modern equipment. The first choice that should be considered is if the fuel being used is the best value and if it should be used for the next system. Many people prefer natural gas when it is available and it may NOT have been available when the last system was installed. The maximum efficiency of gas equipment is 97% and the highest efficiency of oil equipment is around 86% so some savings can be had by switching if fuel prices are equivalent. Most homes have had some insulation installed since the last system went in and that would make a smaller furnace appropriate for the new installation.

Oversized equipment will NEVER reach its rated efficiency and this is probably one of the biggest mistakes made on replacement jobs today. The furnace also costs more and is louder so there is no plus anywhere in that conversation. Who wants to spend the next 20 years with a system that doesn't save fuel, cycles way too often, makes a lot of noise and blows like a tornado? Nobody does and nobody would choose that if they had a voice in the conversation about the replacement. That conversation is usually only about price and not any of the myriad options that are available on new furnaces, including air filters. Air filters alone are a whole topic to be discussed. Even though furnaces come with a slot for an air filter, it is a joke at best and probably the most frustrating part that a homeowner has to deal with regularly.

Systems that use hot water for heat like radiators or baseboard sometimes make the hot water for the faucets too. That's called a summer/winter hookup and leads to more choices that will haunt a homeowner for the next 20 years. Beware of the old adage "if big is good, bigger is better" because that is not accurate, at least not in heating systems.

Do your homework and ask a million questions and you will get what you deserve.

**Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com**

## Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited Riparian Buffer Planting

By Michael Ortoski

CHERRY VALLEY - Trout Unlimited are looking for volunteers to help plant seedlings along the Cherry Creek at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. We have over 1000 seedlings looking for a home and 200 tree shelters to install. Diggle Bars, Shovels, Flat

bladed digging bar, and small (3 pound) sledge hammers (for installing the tree shelters) would be appropriate tools. Please have a face covering for when Social distancing is not feasible. This is a rain or shine event so dress for the weather.

Sunday November 22 from 9 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 2138 Croasdale Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

Free and open to the public. For more information email administrator@brodheadtu.org or brodheadchapter@gmail.com.

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