

National Canal Museum Awarded \$50,000 Grant From Hommer Foundation

EASTON, Pa. — The National Canal Museum has received a \$50,000 grant from the Julius & Kathryn Hommer Foundation Fund to support the museum's general operations. The award represents a significant increase — \$30,000 more than the museum's typical request

— and will help sustain educational programming and preservation efforts.



The Hommer Foundation has been a longtime supporter of the National Canal Museum. While the foundation paused its giving in 2024 during a reorganization, this renewed and expanded commitment reflects its belief in the museum's vital role in preserving and sharing the history of America's canals and the region's industrial heritage. Thanks in large part to the support of the Hommer Foundation in 2024, the National Canal Museum successfully expanded its capacity for the Immersion Days Field Trip Program held in April and May, resulting in a 150% increase in participation. In 2024 alone, over 4400 students had the opportunity for hands-on learning of the industrial history of this region.

"These funds will help sustain essential operations — such as staffing, supplies, and programming — especially as we prepare for a challenging year in 2026 when the anticipated bridge closure will impact visitor access to Hugh Moore Park and the National Canal Museum," said Tony Pierucci, Executive Director of Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. "We are deeply grateful to the Hommer Foundation for its support."

The National Canal Museum, a signature program of Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, tells the story of America's historic towpath canals, with a focus on Pennsylvania's Lehigh and Delaware Canals. Each year, thousands of students and adults engage with this heritage through outdoor experiences and educational programs, including the museum's award-winning fourth-grade curriculum, Immersion Days field trips, environmental education initiatives, conferences, and workshops.

As the museum celebrates this milestone, it invites the community to help ensure its continued success. Your support matters now more than ever. Contributions to the End-of-Year Fundraising Campaign will sustain educational programming and preserve the rich history along the D&L Trail.



**RYAN
MACKENZIE**
U.S. CONGRESS

Delivering Transparency

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

During my July town hall, I made it clear that I supported full transparency in the Epstein case. This week, we reached an important milestone: after passing the House and Senate, the bill to compel the release of the Epstein files has now been signed into law.

Since my time as a Pennsylvania State Representative, I've worked to protect victims, including authoring bills to help victims of domestic abuse acquire unemployment benefits and crack down on deepfake pornography. Now, as a member of Congress, I'm continuing that work by supporting policies that put truth, transparency, and victim protection first. This week is a step forward in the effort to ensure transparency, but the fight to support victims doesn't stop with the Epstein case; lawmakers must continue to enforce accountability for perpetrators and deliver transparency for the public.

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"The freshman congressman, representing the Lehigh Valley, has pushed for full transparency in the case, and said as much as recently in his town hall over the summer."

THE MORNING CALL

Supporting Military Families

By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Congresswoman Valerie Foushee (NC-04) and Congressman Ryan Mackenzie (PA-07) introduced the Military Family Diaper Assistance Act, bipartisan legislation aimed at increasing access to diapers for military families facing financial strain. The bill would establish a pilot program connecting community diaper banks with military installations to provide affordable diapers and diapering supplies to families in need of assistance.

"Our servicemembers sacrifice so much for our country each day, and they should never be put in the position of choosing between buying diapers and buying groceries or other necessities," said Congresswoman Valerie Foushee. "When military families face that kind of financial pressure, it affects not only their well-being but also our military readiness. This bipartisan legislation will help close the gap for countless families in need and ensure they have reliable access to the essential supplies their children depend on."

"The last thing that working parents in our armed forces should have to worry about is access to diapers," said Congressman Ryan Mackenzie. "Military families already have a tough job — balancing the demands of parenthood with the responsibility of protecting our nation. That's why the Military Family Diaper Assistance Act helps to reduce diaper costs for parents in our armed forces and free them up to focus on the mission."

A survey of military families with young children conducted by the Diaper Bank of North Carolina found that 91.5% of recipients worry about how they will afford diapers. The survey also found that military families are often being confronted with an impossible choice between buying diapers or other essential items like food, clothing, and other hygienic essentials like soap, toilet paper, and toothpaste.

By removing a significant financial stressor for military families, the Military Family Diaper Assistance Act aims to allow servicemembers to concentrate on their duties without the burden of worrying about whether they can afford diapers for their children.

