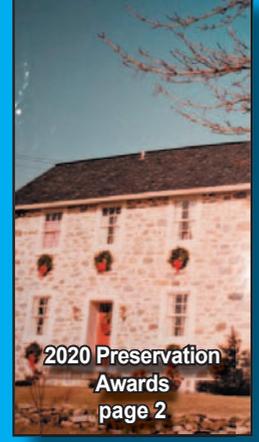


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VOL. 29 NO. 21 WEEKLY IN PRINT AND DAILY ONLINE AT WWW.BLUEVALLEYTIMES.COM AND FACEBOOK

MAY 20, 2020



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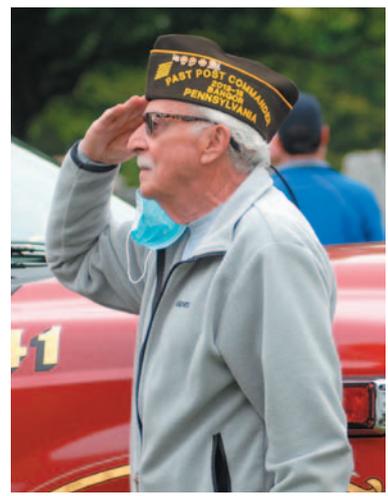
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Memorial Day 2020 Will Be Remembered



By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - Memorial Day Weekend is considered the traditional start to the summer vacation season, but with the COVID-19, we are in trying times.

Inlight of that, we remember the sacrifices made by members of our military and others making sacrifices right now to keep us safe, as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice that we commemorate on this holiday.

I think Memorial Day 2020 will be remembered for our nation coming together to combat this terrible virus and how we will overcome all the adversities it has caused together.

This past Sunday my wife got a call from her brother that their Mother had passed away from the virus after only being diagnosed 15 hours ago. She was in a nursing home in the Philly area and at age 75 and having COPD, she

didn't have a chance.

While most of the usual patriotic parades and ceremonies were canceled, Bangor, Roseto and Upper Mt. Bethel held ceremonies with social distancing on a weather perfect day.

Bangor & Roseto Memorial Day Procession

By Michael Ortoski

The VFW held a small ceremony at St. Johns cemetery where they performed a 21 gun salute, Taps and the National Anthem and prayer was read aloud.

Post member Gene Tragiani led the ceremony for the first time in about 30 years because of long time host Donald Jones WWII veteran has retired from the duty at age 96.

The Columbia Fire Company, Bangor Fire Companies and the Blue Valley Rescue Squad lead the parade down Broadway in

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Upper Mt. Bethel Drive-by Parade

By Michael Ortoski

Upper Mount Bethel Twp. hosted a Memorial Day Drive-by parade at their municle building. All the parade entries were lined up along the parking lot and were stationary. People in their cars and trucks drove by at a slow pace to see the parade. Each veteran was given a flag and was acknowledged with a salute and a loud blast of fire truck horns.

The ceremony was part of the Township's Free Meal Distribution Program that they have been running for the past two months. Everyone recieved two hotdogs, chips, water and Memorial Day Poppies, per person inside vehicles.

The Township will be giving out two hotdogs, chips, water and Memorial

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2020 Preservation Awards

By Slate Belt Heritage Center

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage Center is pleased to announce the recipients of their 2020 Preservation Awards in the following Categories:

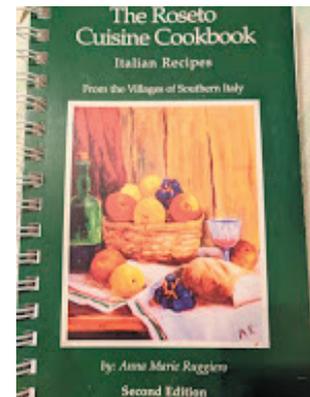
The Architectural Award is presented to an individual who has performed an exemplary act in saving or conserving a historic building, place or artifact where restoration is authentic to preservation. This year's award will be presented to Mr. Robert DiFebo. Mr. DiFebo restored an old farm house that was built before Lower Mt. Bethel Township was incorporated in 1746. Along with his son, he gutted the walls and remediated the infrastructure. He replaced the windows with period windows, re-milled the woodwork around the windows and replaced the floors with milled wide plank flooring. An original fireplace remains along with hand irons. The outside stonework has been repointed and the roof replaced. A post and beam loft and family room has been added with all junctions being pegged together for authenticity.

The Initiative Award is presented to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in promoting and preserving Slate Belt heritage through In-Kind actions. This award will be presented to Ms. Elizabeth (Libby) Bush. Since assuming the reins as President of the Hunter-Martin Museum in Lower Mt. Bethel Township, Libby has spent countless hours in volunteer work at the museum contributing her time and efforts to promoting and preserving Lower Mt. Bethel history. At the young age of ninety-one, she has also kept the Scots-Irish burial grounds cleaned and respectable.

The Special Focus Award is presented to an individual who has shown exemplary actions in saving or conserving traditions or a body of knowledge. That individual who contributes to educational information via documentation. This award will be presented to Ms. Anna Marie Ruggiero. Ms. Ruggiero has published two cookbooks, one documenting the Italians who came to settle in this area from southern Italy. Her cookbook not only featured recipes brought from that region, but also provided information on Italian family life, education, diet and an early history overview. Her second cookbook featured the life styles and recipes of the Welsh and Cornish who also immigrated here to the Slate Belt. Her third book, *The Rosetans'* depicted the day to day family life of the people of Roseto, PA.

At this event, the Heritage Center will also be honoring Gaffney-Parsons Funeral Home for their provident sponsorship in the publishing of the Center's Homefront Book and their latest book, *The Textile Industry*. Their benevolence enabled the Center to preserve, for future generations, information important for historical documentation.

These awards are to acknowledge individuals who have performed acts that promote and preserve the culture and heritage of the Slate Belt. Due to the pandemic limits in-personal get-togethers, a formal ceremony may be held in the future. For additional information please contact: Karen Brewer @ 484-894-5661.



Blue Valley Times

900 N. Main Street., Bangor, PA 18013

Published Weekly/Every Tuesday

Available on the web 24/7 at www.bluevalleytimes.com and Facebook

Phone: 610-452-9234
Email: bvtimes@rcn.com

News / Advertising Deadline
12 noon Fridays

Owner - Michael Ortoski / Michele Hanna
Publisher - Michael Ortoski
Sales - Michael Ortoski
Asst. Editor - Anne Brown
Graphic Design / Photography - MM4 Corp
Feature Writers - Peg R. Berger
Interns from Pen Argyl, Bangor and Stroudsburg H.S.

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