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**Summer Hours: Tues., Wed., Sat. 10 am-2 pm, Thurs. 4-7 pm**  
**Winter Hours (Starting Nov. 1): Wed. & Sat. 10 am-2 pm**



*The June 8<sup>th</sup> Flagpole Dedication & Honor Ceremony recognized all veterans and current military. Harborcreek Gold Star Families were honored guests.*

# THE HARBOR VIEW

*Harborcreek Historical Society celebrates 25 years in 2019!*

## Highlights of the June 8th Flagpole Dedication & Honor Ceremony

*Patriotism is a core American value. From the farmers who left their fields at Lexington and Concord to take up arms against the British, to the young citizens of Harborcreek who enlisted to defend their country from hostile forces, American citizens have demonstrated their patriotism decade after decade. This devotion to our country was the focus of the June 8<sup>th</sup> flagpole dedication and ceremony honoring Gold Star Families.*

Harborcreek Historical Society President Lori Sheridan opened the program by calling on the American Legion North East Post 105 to present the Colors. The flagpole was then dedicated to the memory of Harborcreek's four military men who died during active service. Rolling Ridge Boy Scouts were the first to raise the flag on the new pole and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The keynote speaker for the event was Major Karen Foust USAF Retired, whose speech moved us emotionally and is printed in its entirety below. Karen's dad Paul Foust spoke of his military service in Korea, and her brother Kyle Foust presented the Society with a citation from Erie County Council. State Representative Curt Sonney acknowledged the Gold Star Families whose sons were being honored along with all Harborcreek veterans.

### **Keynote Address by Major Karen Foust**

*Patriotism is a devotion to and vigorous love of one's country. It can also be described as a national pride - a feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to a homeland, and an alliance with other citizens who share the same sentiment.*

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Rep. Sonney Health Expo

**Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>:** HC All-Alumni Party at 8 pm

### Board of Directors

**Lori Sheridan, President**  
**Melinda Meyer, Vice President**  
**John Skuce, Treasurer**  
**Jane Ingold, Secretary**  
**Nancy Brown**  
**Tracy Longnecker Moore**  
**Bill Rodland**  
**Louise Smerick**  
**Brenda Weaver**

# *Gifts to the Society*

**Douglas Smock**  
**Rolf Bork**

**In gratitude for research**  
**In memory of his wife Geri, former society archivist**

*The Society began the Memorial Gifts program a decade ago, and many members have given to the organization in recognition of a loved one, a classmate or a family celebration. We invite you to consider making a donation "In Memory," "In Honor" or "On the Occasion" of a person or event that is important to you.*

## **Flagpole Dedication & Honor Ceremony Keynote** *(Continued from Cover)*

*One example of devotion to country is a man who gave up a minor league baseball contract to join the US Air Force during the Korean War. He went to basic training at Lackland AFB, like all AF recruits, then radio operator school in Biloxi, MS. He was selected to teach at the radio operator school because of his high grades, but instead volunteered to go to the "action" in Korea where he served on a crash/rescue boat. The #1 duty of this boat was to rescue downed pilots off the shores of North and South Korea. Sometimes the pilots were alive and unfortunately, many times they were dead. There was only an enlisted sergeant as the lead on the boat, which he says was just enough. This man who gave up so much to be "in the fight" was our very own, my favorite veteran, Sergeant, Coach Paul Foust. Coach Foust used his GI Bill benefits to get a teaching degree at Edinboro College and then began teaching at HCHS. He taught 10<sup>th</sup> grade American history students just what patriotism means. He also taught many young men on and off the field of football and baseball what teamwork and love of country meant to him, so they could carry those traits into their own lives.*

*You absolutely cannot say the word patriotism in Harborcreek without mentioning Sgt Raymond Krupinski who jumped into D-Day 75 years ago and the Battle of the Bulge with the US Army. SGT Krupinski is a hero all unto himself. He's been married to my good friend Doris Krupinski whom he married while stationed in Europe. They were married for 65 wonderful years.*

*But most of his life, he credited his son, 1LT Raymond J. Krupinski, KIA in Vietnam with being his personal hero. Ray died saving his men on the battlefields of Vietnam, the last brave effort was saving his medic. Unfortunately mortal wounds would take his life before he could get back to safety. Ray's parents were and are devoted to keeping his cemetery space at Trinity Cemetery looking patriotic. There is also a boat launch at Shade's Beach dedicated to Ray with a rock depicting interesting facts about Ray. He was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and is still the only (ONLY) Erie County Soldier awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, just one award away from the Medal of Honor. MAY WE NEVER FORGET.*

*You can't say patriotism without mentioning the name SGT Donald Oaks who died in Iraq, some believe by friendly fire. Donnie was a lifelong HC resident, graduating from the high school in 2000. His parents still live here. His father, also Donald Oaks, graduated from HC in my graduation class. If that doesn't make things hit home, I'm not sure what will. A vigorous love of one's country urged Donnie to volunteer for the US Army and unfortunately took his life before he could get home to his mom, Laurie, and his finance, Char Fedak. During the last phone call between SGT Oaks and his father, he said he wanted to get home and spend time with his family, go fishing and go hunting. His grandfather Samuel Oaks remembers him as a good kid who was quiet but had a good sense of humor. He carried his bible with him wherever he went. MAY WE NEVER FORGET.*

*You can't say patriotism without mentioning the name Jarrid King. His parents Don and Beth King are here with us today as well as his two brothers Johnathon and Jason. Jarrid was a care-free kid who loved his family, enjoyed music, playing his guitar and hanging out with friends which included his 2 brothers. These are things you could say about any teenager. But he also loved his country, so he enlisted in the US Army in 2009. Because of his selfless service, Jarrid earned many decorations including a Combat Action Badge, the Purple Heart and the esteemed Bronze Star. CPL Jarrid King couldn't have done anything more selfless to show his patriotism for the United States of America. Giving one's life so that others remain free is the ultimate sacrifice. MAY WE NEVER FORGET.*

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Flagpole Dedication & Honor Ceremony Keynote *(Continued from Page 2)*

*You can't say patriotism without mentioning the name Senior Airman Bryan Bell. His mother (Donna Peters) was a year behind me at HC, his father (Rick Bell) a year ahead of me. Again, very close to home. Bryan graduated from HC High School with some serious experience as a Fairfield Fireman. In 2007 he began serving in the US Air Force as an EOD (explosive ordinance disposal) technician, another fairly dangerous job. In January 2012, he and his crew were on a patrol going through a narrow pathway through some mountainous terrain, with nowhere to get away, when their Humvee was hit. Several of the men suffered mortal wounds. Several young lives snuffed out way too soon, including Bryan's. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the esteemed Bronze Star for his valiant service. Bryan's sister, TSgt Candice Bell White and Bryan's family keep his memory alive through 5K runs, the gym at Barksdale AFB is named in Bryan's memory and other events throughout each year. Bryan's mother & father-in-law, Mr. & Mrs Hart are with us today. MAY WE NEVER FORGET.*

*One thing I find interesting about these 4 young men who died in service to our country. They were all eligible for interment in the sacred ground at Arlington National Cemetery. None of them, whether the decision was theirs or their wives or their parents, chose that route. All of these brave young men are buried in Erie County. They wanted to be HOME.*

*These 4 young men, SGT Ray Krupinski, and my father embody the true meaning of patriotism – a devotion to and vigorous love of one's country. Without men and women who have this tremendous love and pride in the USA and our township called Harborcreek, our country would not be what it is today. There are many veterans in the crowd today who know the feeling. As I'm speaking, their hearts are swelling with pride for these young men I've mentioned, for their own contributions that they are so very proud of, for family members who have committed to serve our nation, and for those who are signing up in the last week as High School's had their "signing days" for military service. Everyone here can mention at least one person they are proud of because of their patriotism and service to our country. There is a saying that goes around our veteran community. "For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know. You have never lived until you almost died." Certainly our Gold Star families with us today understand that bitter taste. "Veterans pray for peace most of all. Especially the wounded because we have to suffer the wounds of war."*

*I'd also like to acknowledge the Boys Scouts who are here today to raise the flag - Carson and Evan Foust. They are learning to be the future leaders of our great community. They will become the heroes of our tomorrows.*

*For the crowd we have here today, I think we all understand what the term "patriotism" means - to love one's country without question - to do whatever it takes to keep America as phenomenal as she can be. My challenge to you is to share your belief with one other person who will hopefully share it with another person and another person. Share the stories of the brave young men from our community so no one EVER FORGETS the meaning of Memorial Day, NEVER FORGETS what our beautiful flag stands for, and NEVER FORGETS what each and every one of us who wore the uniform of a United States airman, soldier, marine, seaman, coast guardsman, and merchant marine means. NEVER FORGET the families left behind who hope you ALWAYS REMEMBER.*

**In early August, Sam Moorhead informed us about Army Sergeant Gerald T. Butler (Class of 1962), who was killed at Quang Ngai, South Vietnam in April 1970. Sam donated a rubbing made of his classmate's name on the Vietnam memorial in Washington, DC, a flag flown over the U.S. Capital in Butler's honor, and various certificates and photographs. In keeping with our society's designation as a Blue Star Museum, we are seeking other Harborcreek Gold Star Families to be recognized on a future military plaque.**

### Office Hours

**Regular Hours: Tues., Wed., Sat. 10 am – 2 pm, Thurs. 4 – 7 pm**  
Please call or email to schedule an appointment with our volunteers.  
Research inquiries welcome.

**New Members**  
Jason Rzodkiewicz  
George Hayes

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# Harbor Creek High School All-Class Reunion / Picnic At Whitford Park August 21, 2019

By John Skuce

Surprises are something we have come to expect at the all-class reunion, and this year was no exception.

A posting on Facebook led Janet (Kelly) Burris, Harborcreek High School Class of 1957, to this year's All-Class Reunion at Whitford Park. She lives in McCall Creek, Mississippi and was a first-time attendee. Janet was joined by two sisters, Karen (Kelly) Anderson, Class of 1969, and Kristin (Kelly) Chadwick, Class of 1970, a niece, Shannon R. Anderson, Class of 1989, and a great niece, Ryleigh R. Gonda, Class of 2019.



Janet Burris, Karen Anderson, Kristin Chadwick, Shannon Anderson, and Ryleigh Gonda.

In November 1958, Janet enlisted in the United States Air Force and left Harborcreek for San Antonio, Texas. She eventually ended her military career in Biloxi, Mississippi, with the rank of Airman First Class. She proudly served our country through January 1962.

Janet, her sisters, and her family grew up on Troupe Road near Redwood Drive. Their house was at 777 Troupe, but it no longer stands. With sadness, Shannon reported that, after being empty for a couple of years, the Harborcreek Fire Department took it down with a controlled burn. At the reunion, they represented five decades of Harborcreek graduates and three generations of their family.

Ryleigh had the honor of being the attendee representing the most recent graduating class – 2019. In talking with her, she shared the story of how she, along with two other girls, started the Harborcreek Girls Golf Team. At the conclusion of the evening, she left for Indiana University of Pennsylvania to begin her college career.

We thank them all for coming, and wish them well in the future and look forward to their return.

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## Highlights of Harborcreek History by Cam Stadtmueller

During 2019, the Harborcreek Historical Society's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the newsletter team would like to share with you the history of the township through a series of 'articles' formatted as a timeline. The following article is the first of three.

**1839**

William Cooper, Sr. bought 2 mills on Four Mile Creek that were begun by John Shadduck in 1823 & 1825. Cooper rebuilt and renamed the mills Empire Mill. Unfortunately this mill burned on August 3, 1883. William, Sr. and his son rebuilt the mill and operated it as Cooper Rolling Mill at which they processed flour, feed & grain, cider, grapes for wine and lumber.

**1844**

Thornton, Cass and Company purchased two mills at the headwaters of Six Mile Creek that were established in 1810 & 1840. They built a multistory woolen and carding mill. It was operated as Rhodes, Cass and Company Mill, and was later listed as Harborcreek Woolen Mill. Between 1854 and 1874 John Cass and his son Edward oversaw the business, and Edward became sole owner in 1875. Operation of this well-known mill continued until 1887.



**1844**

First Commissioners of Harborcreek Township were Willard Miller, John Moorhead and William May. Their main focus was roads and highways. By the end of their six year terms, the township population was 2,084 residents. Society's archives contain an 1859-60 *Erie County Directory and Handbook* listing residents and their taxable property.

**1852-53**

Railroad gauge across Erie County was two different widths. Violent confrontations occurred when the Franklin Canal Company Railroad laid track through East Erie County to standardize the gauge at 4'10". Harborcreek citizens, "the rippers," were injured while destroying the new track. Visit the interpretive sign in Roadside Park across from the HC Municipal Building at 5601 Buffalo Road.

**1858**

The Underground Railroad was a network of abolitionists who aided fugitive slaves on their journey north to freedom. Most "station helpers" were not known, but a few who could be connected to our township are Frank Henry, William Trimble, William Himrod and Major Frederick Fitch. Activity centered near Wesleyville and north to the Lake Erie shoreline.

**1861-65**

Civil War Enlistments were mainly in the PA Volunteer 145<sup>th</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> Regiments. The first to die in battle was John Hubbard, a First Lieutenant killed at Fredericksburg, VA December 16, 1862. Our society has a file of over 150 enlistees from Harborcreek. A few of the more well-known soldiers were General John McLean, Brigadier General Orpheus Woodward, Private John Tuttle and township wagon-maker J.R. Smith.

**1882**

Of the one room schools in the township, 12 were brick and one was wood frame. They were: Backus, Chambers, Crowley, Ebersole, Elliott, Gospel Hill, Lowry, Moorheadville, Owens, Shaw, Tuttle, Wesleyville and Williams.



*Moorheadville School*



Society board members John and Judy Skuce attended a check presentation at the Erie Zoo on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Also pictured is Michael Batchelor, Executive Director of The Erie Community Foundation.

## Thank You to Those Who Gave on Erie Gives Day

Harborcreek Historical Society was one of 391 nonprofits that participated in The Erie Community Foundation's annual Erie Gives on August 13th. During the 12-hour giving campaign, nearly \$5.6M was raised in total.

Thanks to the following donors, the society was gifted \$2,307: Barbara W. Anderson, George Frank, Lois Heise, Ed and Kelly Hess, Jane Ingold, Heather Kensill, William Klauk, Eric and Nancy Marshall, Charles and Judith McKay, Jack and Melinda Meyer, Tracy and Eric Moore, Charles and Patti Myers, Carolyn Ruth, John and Judy Skuce, Joe and Gwen Smith, George and Cam Stadmueller, Carlene and Bob Stroup, John and Brenda Weaver, and Carol Wood.

We wish to thank all who gave to the Harborcreek Historical Society! This support is so important to the ongoing operations of the Gifford-Blanchfield House.

## Vanishing Before Our Eyes by Guest Writer Sarah Kosack

The ink from the letters written in the late 1800s is slowly fading away. This means that history is vanishing before our eyes. I spent the summer working with letters written by the Dodge family. The letters explain what it was like to live in the 1800s. They were written between parents and children, husbands and wives, and family friends.

Sadly, some of these letters have faded and are unreadable. They appear to be blank pieces of paper with only the slightest indication that there is writing. The letters were written in ink, which can break down over time from exposure to light or simply age. The paper on which the letters were written was made of old rags and linens or wood pulp.

Unlike today, when we can simply call someone to let them know how we are doing, the Dodge family had to write letters to one another. For example, when Anna and Mary's father died, family and friends wrote to console them about the loss of their father. Mary received a different letter from a woman named Charlotte who wrote that Harborcreek was not the ideal home for her. I wonder what she would write about Harborcreek today. It is nothing like it was back in 1919. One hundred years have passed since Charlotte visited the community.

Please visit the Harborcreek Historical Society before all of these letters fade and are gone forever. One of the Society's experienced volunteers can help you access them.

***Sarah was a summer intern with the Harborcreek Historical Society. She is a graduate of the Wattsburg Area School District, and she is presently entering her senior year as a History major at Clarion University.***



### Class of 1959

**Top Row:** Ron Stelle, George Hayes, Donna Smith (Mindek), Barb Pommer (Martucci), Tom Clougherty, Dottie Keim, Rich Woznikie, Dave Henry, Bob Whitten, Roger Britton, Jerre Heyer, Richard Cowell, Charlie Reichard, and Bill Rodland

**Second Row:** Nancy Gerbracht, Judy Morey Britton, Marion Puscher Spenser, Linda Bell Baird, Jean Dolph Harvey, Charlie Moorhead, Ernie Miodus, and Jim Moorhead

**Front Row:** Dianne Miller, Lucile Pierce, Sheila Hume, and Lois Cass Parkhurst