



HONORED MEMORIAL TREES

Marvin Henry Houck <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>	Walter J. Kachele <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>
Samuel L. Sanders <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>	James V. Sellaro <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>
Harold Shaffer <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>	C. Huber (Bill) Steiner <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>
Scott Taylor <i>Red Sunset Maple</i>	John Preston Wintrode <i>Redbud</i>
Charles F. Wright III <i>Redbud</i>	

If anyone is interested in planting a tree in honor of a deceased Veteran, forms are available at the Codorus State Park Office. Also, families may call Beverly Nehr at 717-632-1152.

If anyone wishes to help in the support and maintenance of the Memorial Grounds, donations are welcomed and can be mailed to: The Friends of Codorus State Park, 1066 Blooming Grove Road, Hanover, PA 17331.

Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed. You can become involved by contacting Beverly Nehr at 717-632-1152, or by calling the Codorus State Park Office at 717-637-2816.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Friends of Codorus State Park
Allied Veterans of Hanover



NOVEMBER 7, 2015
VETERANS MEMORIAL GROUNDS—CODORUS STATE PARK

Raising of the Colors 1pm
Color Guard—Hanover Allied Veterans Council

Opening Prayer—Beverly Nehr

Welcome—Scott Taylor

Speaker—Dan Davies USMC Retired

Flag Retirement Ceremony
Pleasant Hill Boy Scout Troop 118

Planting of the Trees

Remarks from Families

Retirement of the Colors
Color Guard—Hanover Allied Veterans Council

INVITED GUESTS OF HONOR:
Kate Klunk—House of Representatives
Richard Alloway II—Senator

THE HISTORY OF HANOVER'S

“Veterans Memorial Grounds”

At Codorus State Park

The “Veterans Memorial Grounds” at Codorus State Park is a place where families can plant trees in honor and remembrance of deceased veterans. This memorial grew out of a request by the family of Laverne Smith, a Warrant Office and Veteran of the Viet Nam War, who was killed in an automobile accident in June of 2000. After Laverne's death, his family wanted to honor his service to our country by planting a tree in his name.

Like many of the local veterans, Laverne was a member of the American Legion, AMVETS, and the VFW. The family went to the VFW, where Laverne had just been elected Commander for the upcoming year, and spoke to Laverne's close friend Ken Riley, another Viet Nam Veteran. Ken told them that, unfortunately, there was no place in the Hanover area to honor veterans in that manner. However, Ken said he would talk to the AVC (Allied Veterans Council), to see what, if anything could be done. The AVC created a committee to investigate options. This committee included the Commanders from each of the local Veteran's organizations, Laverne's family, and Ken Riley, who serves as Chairman.

Through Ken's efforts, the committee sent an e-mail to the office of then Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Ridge, who was also a Viet Nam Veteran and sympathetic to issues concerning Veterans. Governor Ridge suggested the committee contact Ed Kautz, the Superintendent at Codorus State Park, to pursue this idea and ensure compliance with all Park Services guidelines.

By that time, the initial committee had grown to include a number of volunteers with interest in this project. With Ken Riley coordinating its efforts, and Randy Nehr's assistance, this group held several meetings with Ed Kautz to discuss the guidelines that had to be followed. By early Fall of 2000, the

Committee adopted a very simple design for the Memorial and the Park Service approved it. Ed Kautz also provided a list of native trees that the Park Service approved. Each family can pick a tree from this list to be planted at the Memorial in honor of their deceased Veteran.

Throughout the fall and winter months of 2000, the committee held fund-raisers, and volunteers canvassed the Hanover area, soliciting donations of money and building materials. Construction of the Memorial began in late spring of 2001, and ended late that summer. The construction was completed entirely by volunteers and Park employees, as well as a core group of professional excavators, masons and carpenters, who also donated their time, and with their help, directed the other volunteers. From the time the planning for the Memorial began, until the construction was completed, over 20 families submitted requests for trees to be planted in honor of deceased Veterans.

The Dedication Ceremonies for the Memorial and the inaugural tree planting took place on Saturday, September 15, 2001, with Senator Mike Waugh as the keynote speaker. Governor Ridge committed to be present for the dedication, but was called to Washington earlier that week, to take care of the newly created Department of Homeland Security. Each year since the dedication of the Memorial in 2001, and including all ceremonies that have been conducted through the fall of 2009, over 125 Veterans have been honored with the planting of a tree in each Veteran's name. This year marks the celebration of the 14th year Anniversary of the “Veterans Memorial Grounds” at Codorus State Park.

Since the completion of the Memorial, the employees at Codorus State Park, the Friends of Codorus State Park, and a small group of volunteers continue the maintenance of the trees and the grounds around the Memorial.