

*The Greensburg Community  
Development Corporation Presents:*

**CITY OF GREENSBURG**

# HOMETOWN HERO CELEBRATION

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SATURDAY, MAY • 15 • 2021  
ST. CLAIR PARK IN GREENSBURG • 11AM



GREENSBURG  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION





# Program

Opening Music .....	Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra String Quartet
Presentation of Colors .....	Girl Scout Troops #26831 & #27038
Pledge of Allegiance .....	Girl Scout Troops #26831 & #27038
National Anthem .....	Andrea Frescura of the Westmoreland Choral Society
Welcome .....	Ashley Kertes, GCDC Executive Director
Guest Speaker.....	Jeff Anzovino, GCDC Board President
Guest Speaker .....	City of Greensburg Mayor Robert L. Bell
Guest Speaker.....	Gregory Mertz, City of Greensburg Councilman
Guest Speaker .....	PA State Representative Eric Nelson
Guest Speaker .....	Sister Mary Norbert Long, SC
Guest Speaker.....	Charles W. Anderson, Greensburg Hometown Hero

## *Hometown Heroes Tribute*

### *Recognition of All Who Have Served - Moment of Silence*

Amazing Grace .....	Seton Hill University Pipe Band
Closing Remarks .....	Ashley Kertes, GCDC Executive Director
Closing Music .....	Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra String Quartet

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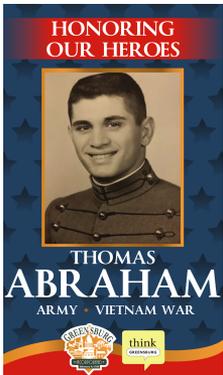
# Our Hometown Heroes

## City of Greensburg



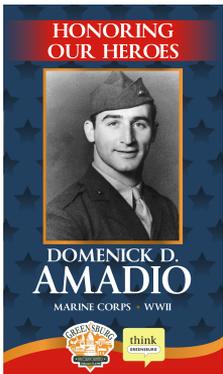
This banner was sponsored by Jeff Anzovino, veteran Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division as a tribute to all Army Paratroopers. Sgt. Jeff Anzovino (Anzovino) was a cavalry scout with the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division from 1985 to 1989.

The 82nd Division was formed August 25, 1917 at Camp Gordon, Georgia. Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its famed "AA" on the shoulder patch. The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war. **Banner location: St. Clair Park**



Mr. Thomas Abraham served in the Vietnam War from 1966-1967. Tom served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader. He also participated in a combat jump on February 22, 1967. Tom was a 1961 Greensburg Salem High School graduate, where he lettered in football, wrestling, and baseball. After high school, Tom attended the United States Military Academy at West Point NY, and graduated in 1965. At West Point he lettered in football and wrestling. He was also commissioned US Army Infantry, 2nd Lieutenant and attended Advanced Infantry Training where he was a company commander at Fort Polk, LA. Afterwards he then went on to US Army Intelligence School, Baltimore, MD and attended Advanced Infantry Training where he was a company commander. He coached the Iraqi Army Wrestling Team in 1966 under orders of the Defense Department. Shortly after graduating from the United States Military Academy, Tom then graduated from Airborne and Ranger Schools. Tom currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Greensburg Salem Education Association and the Westmoreland Housing Authority, as well as being

a founder of Veteran Angels, a non-profit organization helping Veterans who suffer from PTSD. **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**



Marine Gunnery Sergeant Domenick D. Amadio's fighting career lasted only 15 minutes during The Battle of Tarawa in WWII. Before he died under heavy machine gun fire, he gave his all ahead of his own fleet. It's been written of him that he was a "one man army". Domenick enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in October of 1940. He planned a career doing what he loved. In August, 1941, he married "the girl back home" - his sweetheart, Mildred Felice. His son, D.D. Amadio, was born November 1942, two months after his father went overseas. Sadly, father and son would never meet. Domenick died November 20, 1943 at the young age of 24. Mildred, a young widow, would dedicate her life to her son and never remarry. Years passed and she found herself like so many loved ones left behind at wartime attending the Palace Theatre in downtown Greensburg to watch footage reels of WWII. It was here that she saw her beloved "Dom" for the first time since he was deployed, witnessing his love for his country in action. With help from Pennsylvania State Representatives, Mildred fought for Domenick's Purple Heart Medal which she wore as a necklace to keep his heart close to hers.

His name is AMADIO, a name to be known and never forgotten. Mildred never let her son, D.D., forget what his father gave - he gave his all. **Banner location: E. Otterman Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



EDWARD A. AMBROSE  
ARMY & AIRFORCE WWII & KORLAN WAR

GREENSBURG think MEMORIAL

Edward A. Ambrose served in the U.S. Army beginning in 1946, at the end of World War II. In 1947, Ed was sent to Marburg, Germany, and later that year, he was transferred to Vienna, Austria to play basketball for the Army. With the war now over, the Army knew of Ed's basketball talent and placed him on the U.S. Army Basketball Team in Europe. Ed was a star basketball player for Springdale High School, where he captained the team for 3 consecutive years. He received scholarships from schools all over the country, but decided that college was not for him. Much to his parents dismay, he decided to join the Army. When he left the Army, he joined the Air Force Reserves and was called back to service in 1950. He was stationed at the Air Force base in Minneapolis, MN as a Sgt. until the latter part of 1951 when he was discharged. After serving his country, Ed worked with his father as a Millwright in construction until 1955 when he was hired by PPG Industries in South Greensburg. He was a Shift Supervisor and retired in 1990 after 35 years. Ed was an avid golfer spending most days golfing at Mt Odin with his family and many friends. His greatest joy, however, was the time he spent with his wife, Margaret, his 4 children, his grandchildren, relatives, and his many friends. **Banner location: N. Main Street/W.Otterman Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



JOHN W. AMOUR  
NAVY WWII

GREENSBURG think MEMORIAL

John W Amour enlisted in the US Navy after graduation from Penn Joint High School. He completed basic training at Great Lakes in Chicago, Illinois. He was a 2nd Class Petty Officer serving in Guam during WWII. One of his duties was to load bombs onto the fighter planes. He was always proud of his service to his country sharing many memories in his later years. Upon his honorable discharge, he worked at the Elliott Company retiring after 30 years. He loved gardening and spending time with his family. He was a man of great faith. According to his daughter, Malinda, "In my eyes, he will always be a hero for he was my Dad."

**Banner location: S. Main Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



CHARLES WILLIAM ANDERSON  
MARINE CORPS VIETNAM WAR, COLD WAR, DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM

GREENSBURG think MEMORIAL

Colonel Charles W. Anderson, USMC (Ret), grew up in Greensburg working in the family business, Anderson's Market. He graduated from Hempfield High School and Waynesburg University. In 1965 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. After serving in Vietnam from 1967-68, he went to flight school. He was designated as a naval aviator in 1970, and he became carrier-qualified in jets and helicopters. During active service, Anderson served as the U.S. Marine Corps representative to the Pentagon Joint Staff on Strategic and Tactical Nuclear Weapons, Space, and Arms Control. In the early part of the Reagan Administration, he was the Aide de Camp to the Chief of Naval Operations and later was the head of Marine Corps Aviation Training. He also served as the Chief of Staff for the Caribbean Anti-Drug Task Force (JTF-4); G-3 Operations, 2nd Marine Air Wing, during Operation Desert Storm, and the 9th Marine Brigade (Japan). He retired from active duty in 1992. He is the past board chair of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and Corporation, which covers Southwestern Pennsylvania's 10 counties as well as Pittsburgh. He also is past chairman of the board of commissioners of Westmoreland County, Pa. Charles is married to Colonel Nancy Anderson USMC (Ret). They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. **Banner location: N. Main Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



JOHN ANDERSON  
ARMY - OPERATION JUST CAUSE, PANAMA

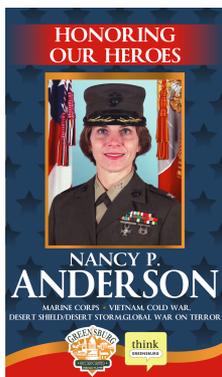
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GREENSBURG think MEMORIAL

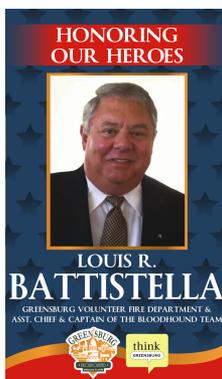
SFC John Anderson served in the United States Army. He was a model soldier and gentleman. He gave his all every day. Known by so many for his kindness, we are all much better people for have having the pleasure of knowing him. Everyone in Greensburg knew him as "The Mailman." He loved spending time with friends and family, helping others, and his Coors original. He will always be my hero. He is loved by so many.

Lest we forget SFC John E. Anderson  
Soldier, father, friend

**Banner location: N. Main Street**



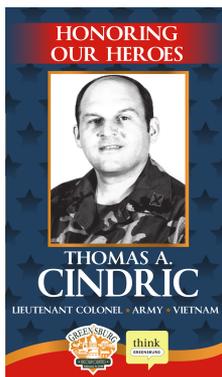
Colonel Nancy P. Anderson was born at the Naval Hospital, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. Colonel Anderson comes from a family of heroes. Her father and husband were career Marines and her brother served 30 years in the Air force. Nancy Graduated with honor from the U.S Marine Corps' Woman Officer Candidate Course in 1972, and from the Woman Officer Basic course the following year. As a Marine officer, Nancy held myriad leadership positions. She spent most of her military service in tactical communications and computers where she held billets ranging from platoon commander through Chief of Staff, communication and information technology, She also served as battalion commander for the Marine Corps' second largest battalion, and as a base commander. Her years of service between 1972 and 2002 covered Vietnam, Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the Global War on Terror. Following her retirement, Nancy volunteers for several non-profit organizations. In her free time, Nancy enjoys learning new things. **Banner location: N. Main Street**



Lifelong Greensburg resident, Louis "Lou" Battistella is an active assistant chief for the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and Captain of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Bloodhound Team. He became an active member of the department in 1992 and currently serves as Assistant Chief 4 to Chief Tom Bell. Lou has had total of 5 bloodhounds over the years of being a dog handler and currently has two. As captain of the Bloodhound Team, Lou takes extreme pride in advancing the team further with training, equipment, and experience on behalf of the department. Lou works full time as third generation president of the family business, Adam Eidemiller, Inc., which is a contractor and real estate development business founded by his grandfather 96 years ago. Over the years, Lou has devoted his time not only to the fire department, but also as a contractor. Lou and the late Chief Hutchinson, through many years of friendship, completed projects for the city of Greensburg. Lou has donated many man hours and equipment to the city for various projects over the years, including the soccer field at Mt. Odin, Five Star Trail, and more. Lou and his wife Suzanne "Sue" have two children, Elysia and Brandon, three grandsons, Ben, Beau, and Matthew. While Lou still works full

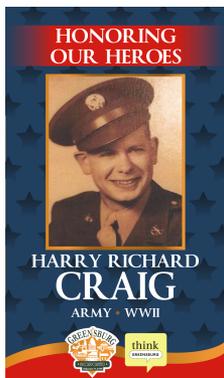
time for the family business, much of his days are surrounded by his administrative duties from his assistant chief duties of the fire department and captain position of the bloodhound team, as they alone are full time positions. Lou is proud to have been presented the Humanitarian of the Year by Chief Hutchinson.

**Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue/W. Second Street**



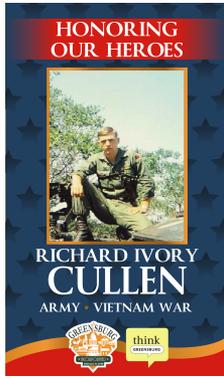
Tom Cindric was born on August 9, 1943 in Greensburg His parents, since deceased, were Grace (Moffe) Cindric and Paul J. Cindric. Tom has one brother, Daniel E. Cindric. Tom grew up in South Greensburg where he attended both elementary and junior high school. Prior to his sophomore year his family moved to 5th Ward. Tom played football and baseball for Greensburg Salem High School and graduated in 1961. After graduation he accepted an appointment to The United States Military Academy at West Point. After his graduation from West Point in 1965, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in the US Army. During his 60 day graduation leave he married Jane (Rohrbacher) Cindric. His first assignment was to attend Airborne and Ranger Training at Fort Benning, GA. He then was assigned to duty as a Field Artillery Officer in West Germany. This was followed with assignments at Fort Lewis, Washington; Vietnam; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Turkey; West Point; Germany and The Pentagon. He served as the Commanding Officer of a Field Artillery Battery in Vietnam, a Nuclear Weapons Detachment in Turkey and a Field Artillery Battalion in Germany. During his 21 years in the Army he also graduated from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and he

received a Master of Science Degree from the University of Illinois. Nearing retirement, he attended and received a MBA from Marymount University. He retired from the US Army in 1986 as a Lieutenant Colonel and settled with his wife Janie and sons Thomas Jr. and Christopher in Woodbridge, Virginia. He then accepted a position with Booz Allen Hamilton, a defense contractor. After a short time working as a defense contractor he accepted a position as a Mathematics Teacher at Woodbridge Senior High School. He spent the next seventeen years teaching Mathematics and Physics at Woodbridge High School. He retired from teaching in 2004 along with his wife Janie, who was an elementary teacher for 25 years. Tom and Janie spend their time golfing, traveling, gardening, reading and enjoying life. **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

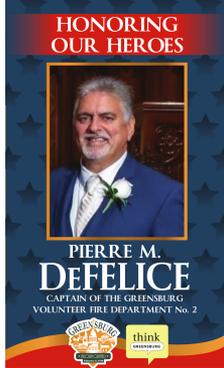


Harry Richard "Dick" Craig was born in Lycippus, PA May 31, 1919. Serving in the Army during WW II, he was a Technician 5th Grade, 334th Infantry, 84th Division. During his service, while stationed in Texas, he married Lillian Martinez, a South Greensburg girl. After the war, they resided in Greensburg and Dick was the owner of a route for Schaller's Bakery delivering to many small stores that blanketed the area at that time. In 1955, he was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident leaving behind his wife and four daughters.

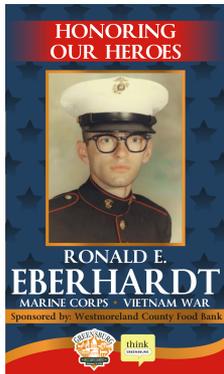
**Banner location: S. Main Street**



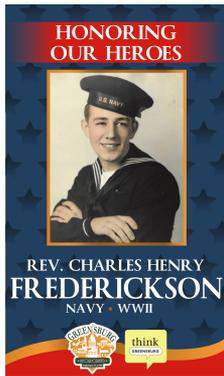
Richard "Dickie" Ivory Cullen was born and raised in Greensburg to parents Myles Richard and Rosemary (Cramer) Cullen. He was the oldest of six siblings - David, William, Thomas, Donald, and Karen. Dickie was a well-liked, popular student and Greensburg Salem High School graduate of the class of 1965. He belonged to the Rifle and Wrestling Teams. He was Catholic by faith and attended Blessed Sacrament Elementary School. Dickie worked at Harry's Pizza and Thomas Drug Store. He loved riding his Suzuki S-6 Hustler motorcycle. His high school sweetheart was Anne Kepple. Dickie was drafted to the Army in October of 1966. After basic training he was sent to Fort Hood. Sgt. Cullen was in the infantry, but after a year he was transferred to Armed Division. He was assigned to an Armored Personnel Carrier where he was killed on May 23, 1968 in Quang Tin Province, South Korea. Sgt. Richard Ivory Cullen is buried at the Greensburg Catholic Cemetery. He was awarded the Purple Heart medal for his sacrifice for our country. **Banner location: W. Second Street**



Pierre M. DeFelice is a member of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and has been for the last 43 years. He has served as captain of No. 2 for 29 years and has been the longest standing captain in the city of Greensburg. He is passionate about his duties as captain and as a fireman. He was also a member of the bloodhound team for many years. Previously, he has served Broughton Volunteer Fire department in South Park Township for 4 years as well. He is a project manager of revenue and compliance for the United States Postal Service and has been an employee with the company since 1982. Pierre is a devoted husband to his wife (Dona), father (Pierre, Bryan, Derek, & Dana), grandfather (Pierre, Cohen, Leah, Aisley, & Teddy), and friend to many. He loves to spend time with his family, travel, watch and play sports, drink a cold beer, and cook. He enjoys collecting a wide variety of wines, which we believe reminds him of his father. Pierre's passion and love for his community is displayed through his commitment and dedication to the volunteer fire department. **Banner location: W. Second Street**

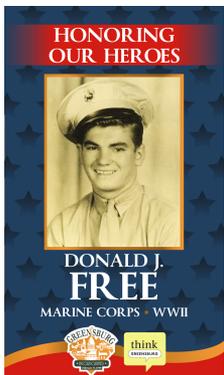


Ronald E. Eberhardt served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War Era from 1969 through 1975. He attained the rank of Sergeant and was stationed in Norfolk, VA at the Fleet Marine Force Atlantic Headquarters. Prior to serving in the military, Ron, who was born and raised in Claridge, attended Waynesburg University graduating with a degree in Accounting. He has worked as a Certified Public Accountant for various Organizations. He is active in our community serving on several Not-for-Profit Boards including Westmoreland County Food Bank, Westmoreland/Frick Hospital Foundation, Excelsa Health Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee, Excelsa Health Investment Committee, Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce and Westmoreland Junior Achievement. Ron resides in Hempfield Township with his wife JoAnn and enjoys golfing, reading and spending family time with his 2 sons, daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. **Banner location: W. Otterman Street**



Rev. Charles H. (Chuck) Frederickson was born in 1922 and was raised in Greensburg. He graduated from Greensburg High School in 1941. He was a member of the wrestling team and worked as a lifeguard at both the Greensburg YMCA and Greensburg Country Club. In 1943 during WWII, he entered the Navy and rose to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class and served on the USS SC-1311 as a Sonarman in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. After the war, Chuck and his wife Bea, whom he married in Baltimore in 1944, started a family. They moved back to Greensburg in 1949. Chuck volunteered in the community, becoming a lifetime member of VFW Post #33, a draftsman at Overly's, an inventor, and a successful architect in Pittsburgh. In 1961 Chuck moved the family to Ohio to follow his dream to become a Lutheran Minister, also earning degrees from Wittenberg University and Hamma School of Theology. His family returned to Western Pennsylvania in 1966 where he then spent the next 33 years serving the community in a variety of ways, and counseling/helping both parishioners and strangers alike while pastoring for several churches in the area. Upon his passing

in 1999, it was clear this family man of faith loved and served his country, and loved and served his Greensburg community. **Banner location: W. Otterman Street**



Donald Joseph Free was born April 27, 1924, and died on April 4, 2011, just shy of his 87th birthday. Born in Jeannette, Mr. Free graduated from Jeannette High School in 1943 and immediately enlisted in the military, serving with the Marines in the Pacific during World War II. Upon his return to western Pennsylvania, he married Alfreda Andraska - the love of his life for 64 years - and raised 10 children together. Mr. Free was an accomplished amateur boxer, a Golden Gloves champion and received the Dapper Dan Award in 1948. He boxed in Madison Square Garden. Mr. Free was employed by the Elliott Company for 47 years. He was a dedicated blood donor, honored by the American Red Cross for contributing more than 16 gallons, and was an avid bowler and golfer. Of all of Mr. Free's accomplishments, his greatest pride was his 22 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

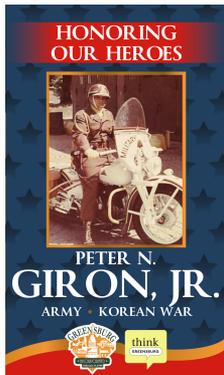
**Banner location: W. Otterman Street**



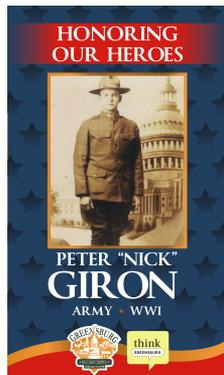
On January 12, 1891, a group of about twenty men met in the Borough Building on North Main Street and formed a preliminary organization, which developed into what is now the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. They decided to form two hose companies. Company No. 1 would have members from the First, Second, and Third Wards, and Company No. 2 members would be from the Fourth Ward. As Greensburg grew, there was a need to form more fire companies, and more formed over the next several years. The reach of the GVFD extends far beyond the Greensburg city limits, as they've built playgrounds in Selma, Alabama for underprivileged children, provided relief in Charleston, SC to the victims of Hurricane Hugo, and were on the banks of the Hudson River when Hutch got the call there were no survivors to recover from the collapse of the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center. On January 12, 2021, the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department celebrated 130 years of public service to the residents of the City of Greensburg. The mission is now and has always been to provide the highest level of public safety services, fire prevention education, and enhance

community development for all residents and visitors of the city of Greensburg.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**

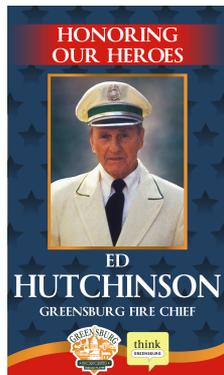


Peter N. Giron Jr. served in the Merchant Marines as well as a Military Policeman, Company C 175th Battalion, stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. Being a motorcycle enthusiast, as an MP, he was asked by an Army officer if he could ride one. He showed off for him and was immediately granted use of the motorcycles. He continued riding motorcycles throughout his lifetime and many knew him as "Motorcycle Pete". He travelled the world in the Merchant Marine but loved his hometown of Greensburg. Self-employed in the plumbing/heating business he was well known and worked in many homes in Greensburg. He enjoyed music, organic gardening, viewing vintage aircraft, and was also a Ham Radio operator with call letters K3AGE. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



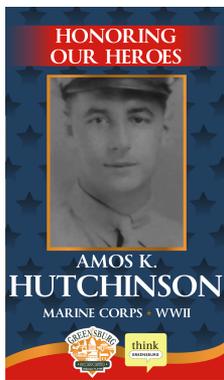
Peter "Nick" Giron served in WWI as a Musician 3rd class, Band 211th Engineers Regiment, 1st Provincial Recruit Co. He was born in Hempfield township (Union Cemetery Rd) in 1896 and was one of 11 children. Married to Mary Belan Giron together they had 4 children. One of them being Peter N. Giron Jr., also displayed on a Hometown Hero banner. He and his family survived the Great Depression, as many did, by cultivating a large garden and also by growing and selling their own plants. Owning his own plumbing business, Keystone Plumbing, he plumbed many homes in Greensburg. He was a charter member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter #35 once located in Greensburg and instrumental in its founding. During the war, he contracted malaria, which is believed to have contributed to his death at the age of 51.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**



John Edward Hutchinson served in World War II for the Marines as a Gunnery Sergeant. He was stationed all over the world from California to Okinawa, he had also served in the Navy and WWI. He valued his time in the service, as it formed him into the hardworking and dedicated man that he was. Not only was he a veteran, he was also a hero to many by helping those in need and helping make dreams into a reality. Ed was the Greensburg Fire Chief from 1953-2016, quite possibly the longest term of any Fire Chief in the nation. He came from a long history of service. His father, Walter Hutchinson was the Greensburg Police Chief. On top of being the Greensburg Fire Chief, Ed was also an entrepreneur. He started his business "Hutchinson & Gunter Inc." in the 50s. He was born in Greensburg, a city that he loved, and fought hard for the many contributions he had brought to this town. He did anything in his power to see this city succeed. Ed's favorite hobby was exercising, as he was an avid runner and loved biking. Ed was instrumental in building the Aerobic Center. As well as, getting the Cabooses donated to the Aerobic Center. He managed to transport

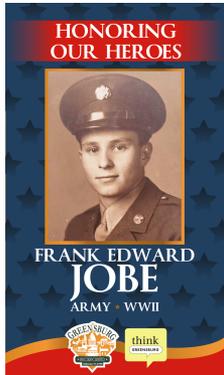
the Cabooses from South Greensburg to Lynch Field. Ed also assembled a team from the Greensburg Fire Department in an instant to report to the Que Creek Mine in Somerset County for a search and rescue mission. There were nine miners trapped, and it was unclear whether any of them have survived the collapse. Using a diving camera attached to a basket, they found out that all 9 miners were still alive. Ed and his team rescued all nine miners and brought them to safety. He was always involved in so many projects in Greensburg and anything that Ed touched flourished. To know Ed Hutchinson, was to love him. When you walked into their home, you never knew what story you were going to hear but it is those memories that last a lifetime. Ed & Dolores are missed every single day and we are forever grateful for the time we got to spend with them! **Banner location: W. Otterman Street**



Amos K. Hutchinson was born on January 1, 1920 in Greensburg. He graduated from Greensburg High School 1938 and joined the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department that same year. Amos dedicated 52 years of service to Hose Co. #3 as president.

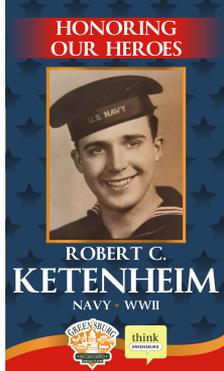
After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Amos joined the Marines along with his brother, Ed Hutchinson. He served as a Gunnery Sargent with the 9th Defense Battalion in the Pacific Theater in the Battles of Guadalcanal, New Georgia, and Guam. Amos was a small business owner during the 1950s and 1960s and served as Greensburg School Director. He was also a PA State Representative for the 57th District from 1968 - 1988. Amos passed away two years later in July of 1990 after 20 years as a PA State Representative.

**Banner location: W. Otterman Street**



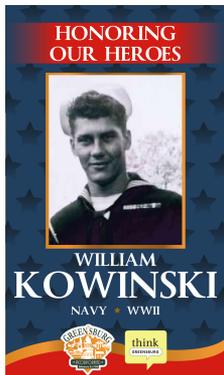
Frank E. Jobe entered the US Army during WWII as a private and was honorably discharged as a corporal. He served in the 80th Division as a Military Policeman under the leadership of General George Patton. Frank was part of the group of soldiers that liberated the Nazi concentration camp of Dachau, one of the most fearsome camps in 1944. He was proud to be an American. Upon returning from the war, he married LaVerne Klingensmith and had 2 children. Frank attended St Vincent College earning his Bachelor's Degree. He worked at Commercial National Bank in Latrobe where he became Vice President and remained on the Board of Directors until age 90. Frank enjoyed family and friends, hearing and telling stories or jokes, and helping people. He was active in his church, the Masonic Order, Tall Cedars, and an active Lay Minister.

**Banner location: W. Second Street**



Robert C. Ketenheim was born in 1926 in Cresson, Pennsylvania to George & Eva (Teichmann) Ketenheim. He worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad in the office at the Cresson railroad yard. On occasion, his job required him to speak with railroad telephone operators. One such operator turned out to be his future wife, Theo Meller. Before they could wed, Robert had to protect his country, serving as a Navy pilot during WWII. He was first assigned to Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, then to a patrol unit where he flew the U.S. East Coast searching for German submarines. Upon his return in 1946, Robert resumed his work for the railroad, eventually becoming a district chief with the Federal Railroad Administration. Robert and Theo were married on October 20, 1948. Together they had four children - Bob, Kathy, PJ, and Peggy. In his free time, Mr. Ketenheim enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He also enjoyed spending time in his kitchen making homemade sauerkraut, root beer, and jelly.

**Banner location: E. Pittsburgh Street**



In 1943 at the young age of 17, Bill volunteered to serve in the Navy during WWII. He was stationed on the USS Pennsylvania, a battleship that was torpedoed in August of 1945 at Buckner Bay in Okinawa. Bill's classification was a radio technician in communications. He sailed for 2 ½ years in the South Pacific theatre until his discharge in 1946. In 1992, he was awarded a plaque from the City of Greensburg Fraternal Order of Police # 56 for being an outstanding citizen for his heroic assistance in subduing an attacker that put a city police officer's life in danger. Bill has always had a passion for electronics, but he completed his career in quality assurance at the Elliott company in Jeannette. Bill's motto was "good enough was not good enough." Bill has been married to his wife Carmella for 70 years and they have 2 daughters. His hobbies include cooking, gardening & traveling. **Banner location: Ehalt Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



VINCENT R. KUBICEK  
ARMY WWII




Vincent R. Kubicek was a veteran of WWII as a PFC, enlisted February 26, 1942. He fought in the Asia Pacific theatre during WWII in the US Army with the 35th Infantry and his rank was PFC. He fought at the battle of Guadalcanal. He received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and also received the Expert Infantryman Badge. Received an Honorable Discharge as a testimonial of honest and faithful service to his country. Vincent was born December 30, 1919 in Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia, Canada. Vincent passed away January 29, 1983 in Greensburg, Pa. He was one of eleven Children. Vincent was married to former Rosemary Rebosky and had two Sons Vincent R. and James D. as well as three Grandsons : Scott V. ; Craig J.; Eric T. Vincent was a diehard Notre Dame Football Fan, and he was employed at the Local Bakery, Schallers in Greensburg for nearly 40 years as well as being a TV repairman.

**Banner location: N. Main Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



SPC. MARK RICHARD KUHNS  
ARMY




Mark R. Kuhns served in the U.S. Army National Guard, Delta Company 1st Battalion, 110 Infantry. Mark loved serving his country and defending our great nation. He also loved the beaches of south Florida and visited there often. He loved dance music and was a mobile DJ with his father. He also had his own polka radio show on WQTW in Latrobe. He was not only my son, he was my best friend and is sorely missed by many. **Banner location: Ehalt Street**

HONORING OUR HEROES



MOTHER ALOYSIA LOWE  
FOUNDERESS OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SETON HILL




Mother Aloysia Lowe served as Mother Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill from 1870 until 1889. She is considered the foundress of the Seton Hill community, which has numbered over 1,000 women religious. During her tenure, she oversaw the staffing of over 15 Catholic schools in western Pennsylvania. In addition, she was the driving force behind the congregational move from Altoona to Greensburg in 1882. In the years before her death in 1889, Mother Aloysia focused on the building of an imposing new motherhouse and academy facility in Greensburg. This "crown jewel of Pennsylvania" eventually became the administration building, which is the heart of Seton Hill University. Her spirituality, wisdom, and business acumen set the tone for subsequent generations of influential Catholic women religious. Banner locations: **N. Main Street, W. Otterman Street, St. Clair Park, E. Pittsburgh Street, S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

HONORING OUR HEROES



ANDREW PALENCHAR  
ARMY & NAVY WWII KOREA VIETNAM  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
THE PALENCHAR FAMILY




Lt Colonel Andrew E. Palenchar born on October 30, 1925 in carpenter town, near Mt Pleasant and passed away Feb 18, 2017 on Aurora Colorado. Andrew served in the U.S Navy in WWII, the Korean War, and in the Vietnam war. On Sept 2, 1944 Navy pilot George H. W. Bush was shot down during a bombing run over the Japanese controlled island of Chichi Jima. After drifting for several hours, Bush was finally rescued by the patrolling submarine USS Finback. Andrew pulled the future President Bush out of the ocean waters and onto his submarine, where they would remain out of sight of the enemy until a month later when they would leave the submarine for safe waters. Lt. Colonel Andrew E. Palenchar served his country with bravery; courage; and honor during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Andrew Palenchar, Joseph Palenchar, John Palenchar, Bill Palenchar and Michael Palenchar will always be our families heroes.

**Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**JOHN P. PALENCHAR**  
ARMY AIR FORCE - WWII  
THE PALENCHAR FAMILY



John P. Palenchar was born in Carpentertown, graduated from Hurst High School and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. John had a 35-year career working for the Federal Government at the Coast & Geodetic Agency in the western US and Alaska and at the Commerce and General Services Agencies in Washington, D.C. and Chicago. He and his wife Mildred, who were married for 50 years, moved to Florida after his retirement where he enjoyed golfing and gardening and his passion for Corvettes. John was dedicated to his faith and served proudly for many years as head usher and as a Third and Fourth Degree Knight. **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**JOSEPH L. PALENCHAR**  
ARMY - WWII  
THE PALENCHAR FAMILY



Joseph L. Palenchar was one of five Greensburg brothers who served in various branches of the U.S. military during the 20th Century. During World War II, Brother John served in the Army Air Corps and was stationed in the Pacific theater and in the U.S. Brother Andy served in the Navy during the war and rescued future-President George H.W. Bush from the ocean, pulling him onto the deck of a submarine after Bush's plane was shot down. Andy later joined the Army and fought in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Another brother, Bill, served in the Air Force in Korea during the Korean War. Brother Mike served in the Navy and was stationed on a ship off the Lebanon coast during the 1958 Lebanese civil war. Another close relative, Joseph's uncle Andy Palenchar, served in the Army during WWII and was killed at Anzio Beach, Sicily, at age 26 on April 21, 1944, after serving in North Africa. Joseph served in the Army from 1946-1948, having attained the rank of Sergeant T/4. He was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., Camp Campbell, KY., and Fort Knox, KY. Joseph later worked for NCR and had two children with wife Connie. **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**MICHAEL A. PALENCHAR**  
NAVY - 1954-1957  
THE PALENCHAR FAMILY



Michael A. Palenchar was one of five Greensburg brothers who served in various branches of the U.S. military during the 20th Century. Michael, his brothers and his one sister were the children of a coal mining family from Carpentertown, PA where they were raised in the company-owned house, shopped in the company-owned store, and raised crops and pigs to survive during the Depression. He served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on a ship off of the Lebanon coast during the Lebanese Civil War in 1958. He was also aboard the Battleship USS Wisconsin in Guantánamo Bay. During World War II, Brother John served in the Army Air Corps and was stationed in the Pacific theater and in the U.S. Brother Andy served in the Navy during the war and rescued future-President George H.W. Bush from the ocean, pulling him onto the deck of a submarine after Bush's plane was shot down. Andy later joined the Army and fought in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Brother Bill served in the Air Force in Korea during the Korean War. Brother Joseph served in the Army from 1946-1948, having attained the rank of Sergeant T/4. **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**WILLIAM A. PALENCHAR**  
AIR FORCE - KOREAN WAR  
THE PALENCHAR FAMILY



William A. Palenchar was one of five Greensburg brothers who served in various branches of the U.S. military during the 20th Century. Bill grew up in a coal-mining family from Carpentertown, PA. He served in the Air Force in Korea during the Korean War. During World War II, Brother John served in the Army Air Corps and was stationed in the Pacific theater and in the U.S. Brother Andy served in the Navy during the war and rescued future-President George H.W. Bush from the ocean, pulling him onto the deck of a submarine after Bush's plane was shot down. Andy later joined the Army and fought in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Brother Michael served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed on a ship off of the Lebanon coast during the Lebanese Civil War in 1958. Brother Joseph served in the Army from 1946-1948, having attained the rank of Sergeant T/4. **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**EDWARD PIKE**  
ARMY • VIETNAM WAR




Edward D. Pike served in the United States Army stationed in Zirndorf, Germany in 1966. He attended the NCO Candidate School in Bad Tölz, Germany, graduating as a Spec 5. After graduating Candidate School, Ed received orders for Vietnam where he served in the 4th Infantry. He returned home to Greensburg, PA in 1968 and worked for PPG for 30 years both in Greensburg as well as in Decatur, IL. Ed is a 9-time cancer survivor, of which 5 bouts of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma were attributed to Agent Orange. He is a lifetime member of SNPJ and Hecla Sportsmen's Club. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, flying free-flight airplanes, wood art, flower gardening, and spending time with his family. Ed is a graduate of Greensburg Central Catholic High School.

**Banner location: N. Main Street**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**ROBERT SHEFFLER**  
ARMY




Robert Sheffler was born and raised in New Alexandria, PA with his two sisters which he adored. Robert resided in New Alexandria with his wife and five children until his passing. After Serving in the US Army, Robert worked at Ramaley Cement Company for over 30 years. His passion was playing the keyboard! On the weekends Robert played the keyboard at the Windmill Farms Family Restaurant for everyone to enjoy! Robert's music touched many and was heard by many throughout the years. Robert loved his family and is truly missed! Robert (Dad) was our hero!

**Banner location W. Otterman Street**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**M.T. (MOE) SHERID**  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE




Moe Sherid, was born in Butler, Pa. on, June 1, 1911 . On April 1, 1938 , he enlisted, and entered the Pennsylvania State Police, training school, In Hershey, Pa. In 1948, Moe was transferred to Troop A, Greensburg serving Westmoreland County. One of his proudest moments as a young State Trooper was being assigned to the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. He moved his family here, and spent the rest of his life in Greensburg. Upon retiring, in 1961, he owned and operated Sherid's Driving School serving the community with driving instructions. Moe's legacy continues with Sherid's Driving School celebrating 60 years of continued service in the community. **Banner location: N. Pennsylvania Avenue**

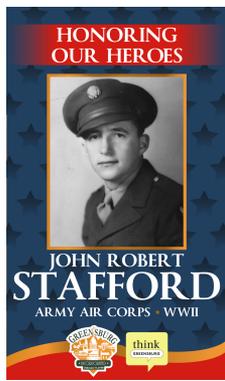
**HONORING OUR HEROES**



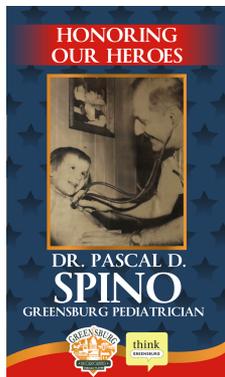
**JOHN W. SIMON**  
GREENSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & PA STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER




John W. "Jack" Simon, originally from West Newton, was a PA State Fire Commissioner, Director of Administration for Westmoreland County, President of the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, an Active Firefighter for over 60 years, as well as serving sometime in the Army. Mr. Simon followed in his father's footsteps who also served over 50 years as a volunteer firefighter in West Newton. Mr. Simon passed away in 2010, but he was married for over 50 years to his wife Mary Kay. They had 4 children and 6 grandchildren together. Mr. Simon loved being a part of Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department #1. Some other things that Mr. Simon enjoyed in his free time were gardening, singing in his local church choir, traveling, acting in his local theatre, and having an antique car collection. **Banner location: N. Main Street**



John Robert Stafford and his brother Dale Stafford entered into the military after the start of WWII. John became a radio technician on a B-17s. After leaving the military John Robert enrolled into the Milwaukee School of Engineering. John Robert worked several years in the private sector, but eventually returned to the military. He took a job with the United States Army Reserve Center which brought him to Greensburg. He and his wife, Sarah, raised six children on W. Pittsburgh Street. Rabbit hunting with his beagles was his favorite hobby. Family was everything to John Robert and nothing made him happier than taking everyone to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Beloved and legendary pediatrician Dr. Pascal (Pat) D. Spino of Greensburg dedicated every day of his life to children in need. Dr. Spino came from very humble beginnings as a depression-era child of a large Italian-American immigrant family. He grew up in Hilltop. Dr. Spino nearly died of tuberculosis twice during childhood, resulting in permanent heart damage. He persevered through his efforts and resilience and eventually rose to become the Chief Resident at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Spino served in the US Navy achieving the rank of Lt. Commander as a Physician. He later became a reservist so he could serve the children of Greensburg. In 1954, he opened his solo pediatric practice in Kinderhook, where he remained in practice for 55 years. In 1954, Dr. Spino founded the first Well Baby Clinic in Westmoreland County, which gave children up to 6 years of age free exams and immunizations. He served two rotations aboard US Hope in Central America and served as pediatrician in a TB Hospital in Guatemala from

1966-1968. In 1970, he founded the "Joy for Jacob" Fund. The residents of Greensburg responded generously with donations to help with health-related expenses. In 1972, Dr. Spino founded the first Venereal Disease Clinics in Westmoreland County where teenage children in the area could receive free care. That same year, Dr. Spino co-founded R.A.N.C.H. (Render Any Needy Child Help), which aided abused children who had no place to go.

Dr. Spino played an instrumental role at Westmoreland Hospital to create a Level II Nursery which had capabilities to provide intensive care to the children of Westmoreland County. This Special Care Nursery was eventually dedicated to Dr. Spino and named in his honor. Dr. Spino was the past president of the following organizations: Westmoreland Hospital Medical Staff, Westmoreland County Heart Assoc., SW PA Heart Assoc., and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Medical Society. Dr. Spino was also the past Medical Director of the following organization: Westmoreland Crippled Children's Society and Westmoreland County March of Dimes. He served as a Board member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Epilepsy Society, and Westmoreland County Mental Health.

Dr. Spino was the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics of Westmoreland Regional Hospital. He maintained his Pediatric office while also serving as faculty at St. Francis College, Chatham College, Seton Hill College, and Duquesne University as part of their Physician Assistant Programs.

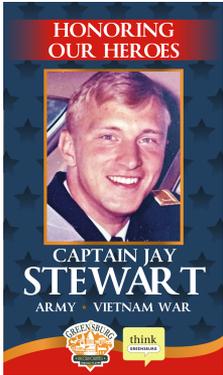
Dr. Spino's many honors span from childhood through his adult life, and each was possible through hard work and dedication. His many honors compare closely with his countless stories from "Dr. Spino's Kids". Dr. Spino has been entered into the Congressional Record when his son, Gerome Domenic, received both the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's CITIZEN SERVICE OVER SELF Medal, and a personal thank you from President Obama for his father's service to SW PA. The Pittsburgh Pirates hosted Dr. Spino at a Dr. Spino Day at PNC Park, as did the City of Greensburg in 1988 for a Dr. Spino Day for a 'lifetime of hope and service'. During this time, Dr. Spino revealed that he had terminal cancer, yet he went on to become a cancer Survivor while maintaining his service to the community. Dr. Spino positively affected children and families locally and internationally. In fact, in 1998, Dr. Spino was awarded named the Paul Harris Fellow by

*Cont'd on Page 12*

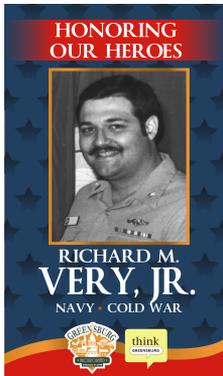
**Dr. Pascal D. Spino, cont'd.**

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International 'in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world'. There is a plaque dedicated to his service displayed in the hometown of his parents, Cercemaggiore, Italy by the residents in his honor. The Republic of Italy gave a Proclamation to his son signed by over 20 officials acknowledging Dr. Spino's leadership and service to the children of the United States.

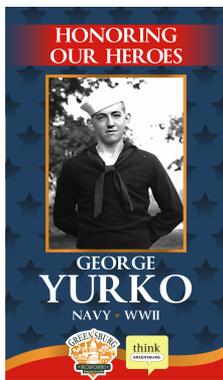
Dr. Spino and his wife Aida lived their lives in Greensburg and raised 4 children: Pascal, Camille, Gerome Domenic, and Marco. Dr. Spino's Office, referred as 'the best known office in Greensburg' where "the light was always on" was their first family home. Dr. Spino's family and extended family still call Greensburg home and work hard to contribute to the community. **Banner location: N. Main Street**



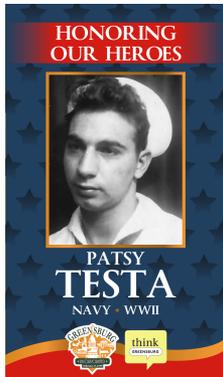
Jay Stewart moved to Greensburg when he was in kindergarten and graduated from Greensburg Salem High School in 1961. He competed for an appointment to West Point Military Academy. He was successful and went off to West Point with two Greensburg Salem High School classmates, Tom Cindric and Tom Abraham. This was the first time ever that three individuals from the same high school were appointed to attend West Point. After graduating from the US Military Academy in 1965, Jay immediately joined the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Meade, MD. Their mission was to prepare the Regiment to go to Vietnam. They trained for one year before they took a ship from the US West Coast to Vietnam in the fall of 1966. This unit ended up being the longest serving unit of its size in Vietnam. Being a member of the legendary Black Horse Regiment where he served as a Platoon Leader was an honor for Jay. During the year in Vietnam, the regiment and platoon performed search and destroy missions most every day as well as convoy escort. Jay returned to the US in June 1967. He left the service in 1970 and took a job with the Procter & Gamble Company where he worked for 36 years. Over the course of that service the regiment had 710 KIA's. Many times that number were injured and/or had associated difficulties from serving in combat. These include PTSD, treatment of physical wounds, and Agent Orange related illnesses. Jay thanks those who invested their time and energy to recognize our combat veterans and said, "This veteran feels welcomed home." **Banner location: S. Pennsylvania Avenue**



Rick attended the University of Notre Dame in the NROTC program, where he was commissioned an Ensign upon graduation. The highlights of his naval career were serving as Supply Officer on the USS Groton SSN 694 Fast Attack Submarine and being hand selected to run the Foreign Officer Supply Training Program. Following active duty, he became a member of the Naval Reserve, retiring at the rank of Commander. He had a profound respect for all who served the great country he so loved. Rick and his wife Diane cherished a relationship dedicated to raising their three children, travel, and watching their grandson Knox grow up. Rick and his family happily lived on the Very Farm, where they held their renowned annual friends and family picnic, The Barneque. He was passionate about his business consulting firm that he founded in 2000, where many of his clients became lifelong friends. His infectious personality, and engaging conversational style easily steered people to him and he is remembered as a fiercely dedicated and enthusiastic patriot. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



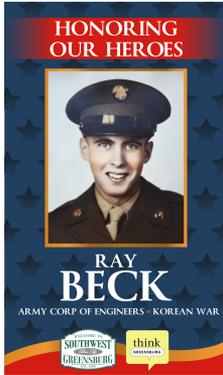
George R. Yurko was a life-long resident of Greensburg. He served in World War II in Okinawa and received the Pacific Theatre Ribbon. He enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17, following in the footsteps of his four brothers who were also proudly serving their country during WWII. He enjoyed hunting and gardening-- always sharing his vegetables with family & friends. His number one priority was spending time with his family. He was a life member of Greensburg Volunteer Hose Company No. 7 and the VFW Post 33 of Greensburg, where he proudly held numerous leadership roles in both organizations. **Banner location: Harrison Avenue**



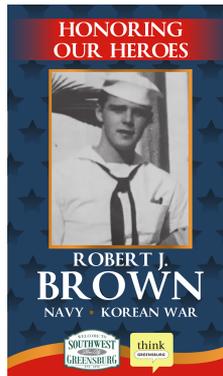
Patsy (Pasquale) Testa, age 94, was born and remains in Greensburg. Patsy served in the south Pacific during World War II. His crew ran the U.S.S. Pickett, the flagship of a fleet of minesweepers. At the end of the war, his ship preceded the U.S.S. Missouri into Tokyo Bay where Allied Forces signed the peace treaty. Patsy was promoted at the end of his first cruise, for exemplary service. He has been married to Eleanor for 70 years and has 3 children. He is loved by a large, extended family. Patsy loves family gatherings. He is a founding member and retired officer of the Roosevelt Club. Pat gardened for many years and he's an avid sports fan. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



# Our Hometown Heroes Southwest Greensburg



Ray Beck served in the Army Corp of Engineers during the Korean War. His job in Korean was to build roads for the American troops. Ray was raised in Cabot, PA, went to school in Angola, IN, worked in Galion, OH and Dubois until settling in Greensburg, PA, where he raised his family. Ray worked as a Mechanical Engineer for Youngwood Westinghouse, later Powerx. Ray enjoyed golfing, spending time at the beach searching for shark teeth. Ray enjoyed his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Robert J. Brown served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Upon his return home, he worked as a draftsman for many years. After his retirement, he worked for the City of Greensburg at the Bell Garage. His hobbies included playing pool and participating in the Senior Olympics. He also loved to play golf and softball in his younger years. Robert was a proud father of four. He also had eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Angelo Constantine enlisted into the Army during WWI and fought over in Italy where he was born and came over to the United States and joined the military. The Constantine family does not have much information about his military career such as his rank and company he was assigned. Angelo married Alvena (Segeleon) Constantine and had three children a daughter Marie (Constantine) Ciavarra, two sons Donald Constantine, and Edward Constantine. Angelo & Alvena lived most of there time living in the City of Greensburg (Ludwick). Angelo worked as a armed security guard at Elliott Company in Jeannette, Pa. where he retired. Angelo's hobbies were his garden with all types of vegetables and always had a project going on in the house in his younger years.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**DONALD W. CONSTANTINE**  
NAVY • WWII

SOUTHWEST GREENSBURG think estimates

Donald W. Constantine enlisted during WWII and served in United States Navy for three years and his rank was Seaman (E3). He was stationed on the U.S.S. Y.M.S. #339 a mine sweeper and traveled the world by sea. Don's parents were Angelo & Alvena ( Segeleon) Constantine. He had an older sister Marie (Constantine) Ciavarra and younger brother Edward Constantine. Don married Betty (Nolan) Constantine and had two children, a daughter Michelle (Constantine) Cordial and son Donald Constantine. Don was employed by Elliott Company in Jeannette, PA. for 42 years as machinist. Don grew up in the City of Greensburg (Ludwick) and eventually lived in Hempfield twp. Don's hobbies were golfing and watching westerns on TV. He also when the opportunity arose he loved to dance.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**EDWARD ANGELO CONSTANTINE**  
ARMY • KOREAN WAR

SOUTHWEST GREENSBURG think estimates

Edward Constantine, US Army, served as a Gun Section Chief in Germany and Austria with C Battery, 108 Field Artillery Battalion, 28 Infantry Division, from February 1951 to February 1953. He was raised by his parents Angelo & Alvena (Segeleon) Constantine in Greensburg, Pa. with his sister Marie (Ciavarra) and brother Donald. Ed was married to Rita (Mikosky) Constantine for 66 years, residing in Southwest Greensburg raising three children , Eddie, Michael , and Diana (Daigle). Ed was incredibly proud of his time in the Army, and through his stories and mentorship inspired three of his grandsons to follow in his footsteps in the Army, encouraging them every step of the way, but always reminding them to never volunteer for anything. Ed would often tell stories about when he was on the Gun line crewing his 155mm Howitzer section. Ed's hobbies included golf, gardening, and watching his teams. Ed never missed an opportunity to cheer on his children and grandchildren in school sports and activities. He was the loving patriarch of the family, the center around which all gathered.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**DENNIS GIANNILLI**  
ARMY • VIETNAM WAR

SOUTHWEST GREENSBURG think estimates

Dennis Giannilli was born February 17, 1952 in Luxor, PA to parents James and Theresa. Dennis had seven siblings, Jimmy, Dave, Theresa, Shirley, Loretta, Doris, and Tina. He played ball for Bovard. He was married for 50 years to his wife Linda. They had three sons, Gino, Mike, and Nick, and seven grandchildren, Nico, Marco, Kameran, Lola, Dante, Dom, and Mikey. Dennis was enlisted in 1971 to the U.S. Army, stationed in Muldrough Kentucky, as well as Bomberg Germany during the Vietnam War. Dennis loved being in the service and appreciated the sacrifices made for the American people. Dennis was the owner of Giannilli's Italian Restaurant for 43 years. He loved his job and worked seven days a week. His three sons followed in his footsteps of working in the restaurant, which made him so proud. Dennis loved to bowl and owned Charter Oak Bowling Lanes. Dennis loved to have fun in any way that he could and loved to make people laugh. Dennis loved his family so much, and his goal was to love and care for everyone but himself. **Banner location: S. Main Street**

**HONORING OUR HEROES**



**LEE GOSWICK**  
ARMY AIR CORP • WWII

SOUTHWEST GREENSBURG think estimates

Leroy "Lee" Goswick served in the Army Air Corp in World War II as a dispatcher. He flew many missions and received multiple accommodations. During one of his assignments, his plane was shot down over France. As he and his crew were walking to Spain, they were captured by a German force. The men were made to walk many miles and were kept in a POW camp, until they were freed. Lee was born in Youngwood and raised his family in Greensburg. After the war, Lee was a typesetter for the Tribune-Review. Lee remained active and rode a motorcycle into his 90's. He loved his family, most especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. **Banner location: S. Main Street**

HONORING  
OUR HEROES



RALPH E.  
**GRAFF**  
ARMY AIR CORP. • WWII  
PA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



HONORING  
OUR HEROES



DONALD C.  
**HEGLAND**  
MARINE CORP.



HONORING  
OUR HEROES



ROBERT L.  
**HEWITT**  
AIR FORCE • WWII



HONORING  
OUR HEROES



GEORGE H.  
**HICKMAN, JR.**  
NAVY • VIETNAM WAR



Ralph E. Graff was a lifelong resident of Southwest Greensburg. He passed away in 2016 at the age of 92. He was inducted into the Army in January 1946, where he trained as a control tower operator. He served as a draftsman with the AACCS 64th Regiment stationed in France and Germany through March 1947, working on the reestablishment of the airway communications system throughout occupied Europe. In 1950 he joined the 9553rd Air Force Reserve Squad in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, until 1960, when he transferred to the 9204th Air Force Res. Recovery Squad, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. In 1964 that Squad was deactivated. He then rejoined the 9553rd Squad. In 1965 he enlisted in the maintenance Repair Section of the 171st Air Transport Wing of Pa ANG.

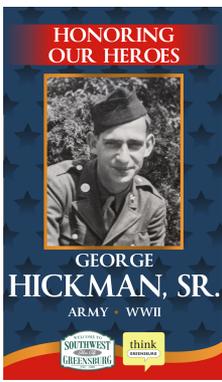
The 171st Support Squad was activated for seven months during the Vietnam War. He remained active in the Reserves until his Honorable Discharge with 35 years of service to his Country. Ralph was a 1941 graduate of Greensburg High School and was an active member for all the class reunions. He worked for over 35 years in the construction business as an Estimator and Purchasing Agent working for Westmoreland Construction Company and Pevarnik Brothers, Inc. Ralph raised a family of six children and played drums in various bands with what little free time he had. **Banner location: S. Main Street**

Don Hegland was a proud marine. He served from October 1975 - February 1979 as a combat engineer. After that he worked as a truck driver for Yellow Freight Don was a jack of all trades and could fix anything. His sister, Callie, once said he was the strongest man she ever knew and was a great protector. He would have done anything for anyone. He loved taking hikes in the woods, hunting, and fishing. Don was a wonderful husband, father, and brother. He loved spending time with his wife and soulmate, Chris, and his family. He also loved attending church on Sundays. Don was only 60 when he fell victim to the Camp LeJeune contaminated water. **Banner location: S. Main Street**

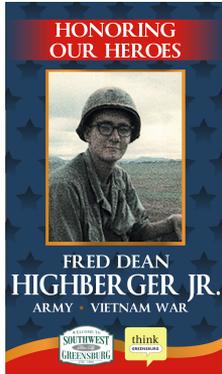
Bob Hewitt served in the Air Force during World War II. The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed he stood in line all day to enlist. However, he was only a senior in high school and 17 years old. His father refused to co-sign for him and he had to wait until graduation. At that time he enlisted in the Air Force. After boot camp he was stationed in England where he worked as an airplane mechanic. During this time his two older brothers were also in England and were able to reunite for a brief visit. After the Air Force he returned home to marry his high school sweetheart, Evelyn. They had three children and resided in Southwest Greensburg where they enjoyed many family get togethers. Family meant everything to him. Bob worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad until his passing.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**

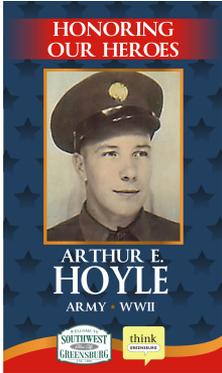
George "Hank" Hickman Jr. joined the Navy in 1967 entering the Vietnam War. He was sent out on a ship only to have it catch fire. Back home for a spell, he married Judy. He was then placed on the Douglas H. Fox battleship touring the Mediterranean where he was a Gun Control Technician. Four days after his return, he and Judy welcomed their only child, Heidi whom they absolutely adored. Hank was a huge Steeler fan as he yelled and cheered on every game day. He followed in his father's footsteps and went on to work and retire from the Elliott Company. He passed in 2007. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



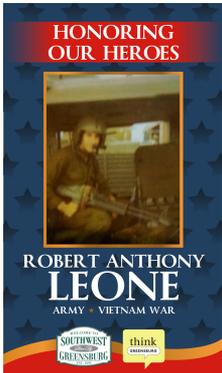
George Hickman, Sr. was a WWII Army Veteran. He was stationed in Cape Cod, Buzzards Bay. His title was Radio Communications Technician located in the Philippines. After serving, he married Betty and together they raised 3 children. He started a TV and radio repair service in Jeannette and eventually went to work at and retire from Elliott Company, where his name is on a number of patents. George was an avid sailboater and he played the organ beautifully by ear. He passed away in 2002. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Fred Dean Highberger Jr. served in the Vietnam War serving in the Army as a 1/69, as a Sergeant / E5. Fred is the oldest son of Fred and Margaret Highberger, and has two younger siblings, Peggy Jo and Earl. Before being drafted, Fred worked for NCR in Washington, PA in 1967. Fred grew up in Southwest Greensburg where he enjoyed playing Church softball, as well as building electronics. An interesting story is that Fred's CO on the virtual Wall Remembrances Page was able to be found, which included some stories that he shared of how they lived in South Vietnam. Fred was killed in action with four other soldiers on October 26, 1969, while returning from repairing radios in tanks on site by a landmine. Fred's Executive Officer said that he could repair all radios as long as he had replacement parts, and he most likely saved many lives with his repairs at the company level. Fred's branch of military 1/69 armor is the most decorated armor unit in our country's history. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Arthur (Art) E. Hoyle was an Army medic who served in the 9th Divisions' 39th Infantry Regiment that invaded northern France on D-Day, June 06, 1944. His group unloaded from an amphibious LST barge onto Utah Beach. Art was ordered by his sergeant to remove the Red Cross from his uniform and pick up a gun to fight following Commander Paddy Flint's slogan, "Anything, Anywhere, Anytime Bar Nothing". He was one of only three to escape that intrusion alive. Attempting to save a wounded soldier, he was critically injured at St. Lo and spent over a year in various hospitals recuperating. Among his many medals are two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and WWII Victory Medal. After the war, he married Margaret Forejt, had three children and built his home in Ruffsdale. Art was an expert carpenter, hard worker and enjoyed hunting. He lived his life in accordance with Love of God, Country and Family. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



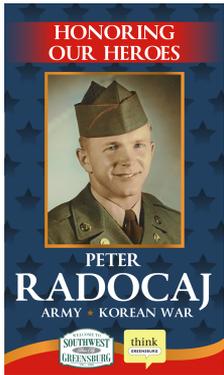
Robert Anthony Leone  
**Banner location: S. Main Street**



The dictionary defines a hero as a person who is admired for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. My definition of a hero is the life of Joseph LaValle. Joseph LaValle served in the Army, 17th Field Artillery during World War II. He signed up for the draft early in 1941, because at that time, if drafted, one only had to serve for one year. He had only served eight months when he was told that he could go home early. No sooner had he packed his bags, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and he was back doing maneuvers at Camp Blanding. In November of 1942, as part of Operation TORCH, the invasion of North Africa, he landed on the beaches of Oran, Morocco. He was sent to the front lines as an observer, giving information as to where the Germans were located. On February 13, 1943 he observed that General Rommel's Afrika Korps had his unit surrounded at Kasserine Pass. The unit was instructed to walk to a designated area and on February 14, 1943 they walked into an ambush. Joseph was captured and sent to Italy, then Germany, where he was housed at Stalag 7-A in Moosburg, near Munich. After numerous escape attempts, he was sent to

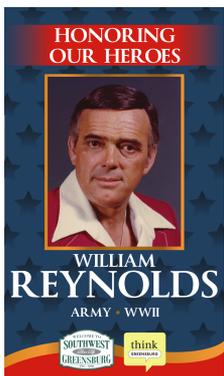
a hospital in England. He weighed only 90 pounds. He had survived 27 months as a prisoner of war. He was awarded the Purple Heart and a POW medal. After the war, he became a founding member and past commander of American Legion, Post 981, in South Greensburg and was a member of their Military Honor Guard until his death at age 90. Joe loved to garden, play cards, work crossword puzzles, swim and exercise at the Aerobic Center and spend time with his family. He adored his wife, children and grandchildren and went everywhere with them. He held true to his faith, his family, and his friends. He loved his country with ALL his heart and proudly displayed the American flag each day at his home. Joseph LaValle was more than just the "Average Joe". He was my father, and he will always be my hero.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**



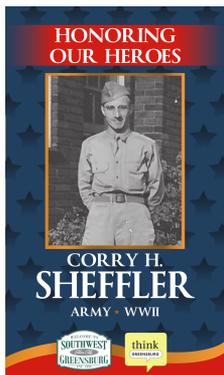
Peter Radocaj was born and raised in Greensburg. He graduated from Greensburg Salem High School in 1949, where he was a member of the wrestling team. Before joining the military, he worked as a bartender at the Modern Tearoom. Peter was stationed in Chuncheon, Korea during the Korean War from 1952-1953. He married his wife, Anne Harhai, of United, Pennsylvania and raised five children - Karen, Diane, Peter, Michael, and Gregory. Peter worked for the General Tire & Rubber Company in Jeannette for 27 years.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**



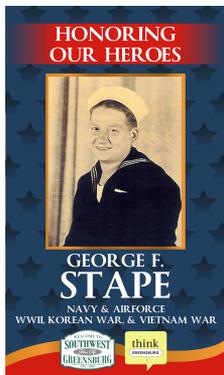
William J. Reynolds served as an Army Tech 4 with the 197th Port Company Transportation Corps in Fort Kamehameha - Oahu, Hawaii. A native of North Carolina, he relocated to Greensburg after his Honorable Discharge in 1945. Bill was self-employed as founder/owner of Reynolds Cars both in Greensburg and Mount Pleasant, and was an active member at the state level in the PIADA organization (PA Independent Auto Dealers Association) including a term as president. In addition to the car business, he was an avid aviation enthusiast and a proficient pilot with multiple ratings, which allowed him to travel to many favorite locations including Canada and the Bahamian Islands. Most importantly, Bill was dedicated to his faith in God, his love for family, and patriotism. He was especially proud of his five children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Banner location: S. Main Street**



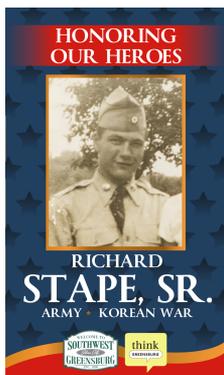
Corry H. Sheffler was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II. He served his country stateside at various locations as an x-ray technician. Corry was the youngest of 6 children raised in the home of his grandfather, Israel T. Sheffler. He would recall his siblings going to and from school in a horse drawn wagon. His uncle, Frank Reamer, was a long-time treasurer for the city of Greensburg. Mr. Reamer owned a general store where Nature's Way is now located. Corry graduated from Greensburg High School in 1929. Corry Sheffler was simply a good, honest man with a kind heart. He always looked for the good in others. He was an exemplary worker and an excellent listener. Corry enjoyed spending time outdoors. His favorite activities were gardening, walking in the woods and fishing. He could mimic bird calls and identify many plants in nature. His gentle nature was quite evident as he made friends with woodland animals such as skunks and groundhogs! He especially had a fondness for dogs. Corry enjoyed spending time with his wife, son and especially enjoyed playing with his grandchildren. Corry was a long standing

member of American Legion, Post 515, in Latrobe. Kind people are the best kind of people and Corry Sheffler was one of the best around! **Banner location: S. Main Street**



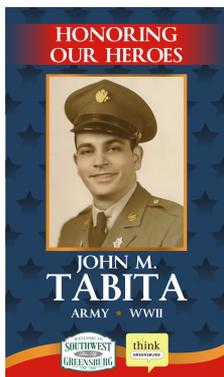
George F. Stape was born on May 13, 1927 in Grapeville, Pennsylvania. He was the third born of 11 children. He joined the Navy at the young age of 17. Even at that early age, his dedication to family was apparent. Before he married he would take a small amount from his pay to meet his needs and would send the balance to his mother.

After joining the Navy, George quickly realized that he hated being seasick. He decided to join the Airforce instead, where he served for 30 years. He fought in WWII, the Korean War, and served during the Vietnam War. During his service years he relocated his wife and four children to five US states as well as France and Germany, all of which were three to five year tours of duty. He retired from the Airforce while stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah in 1968, after which he moved back to his home state of Pennsylvania. **Banner location: S. Main Street**

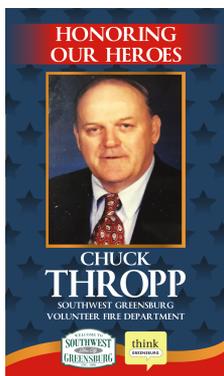


Richard C. Stape served in the Army in the Korean War. He was 18 when he enlisted and was stationed in Pittsburgh. He attended boot camp at Fort Mead, Maryland and then trained at Heavy Tank School in the General depot located in Atlanta, Georgia. He was sent to Japan and on to Korea where he was a mechanic who repaired tanks and jeeps. He married Shirley and together they raised 6 children. He started Stape's Transmission Service and went on to retire from a shop in Greensburg. Richard always wanted to farm, so after his retirement he purchased land in Sandy Lake, PA and did just that, raising angora goats and a host of other animals. He lives there still. He is 88 years old.

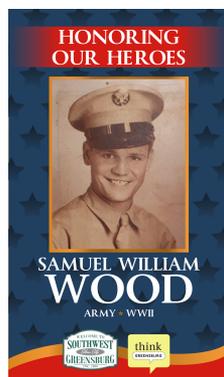
**Banner location: S. Main Street**



John M. Tabita served as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II from July 1941 until September 1945. As a member of the 2nd Armored Division "Hell On Wheels" he served in North Africa, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He befriended a seminarian while in Holland and remained friends through letters (mostly written by his wife) until they reunited 25 years later. They remained friends until the end of their lives and the families continue that friendship across the sea to this day. While John was not born in Greensburg, he made his home in Southwest Greensburg after his marriage in 1946 to Camille Merlino. He raised 3 children and was a devoted father. He was employed at ITE Circuit Breaker Company (among other names) in South Greensburg and also managed their Credit Union. He also was a founding member of the Southwest Recreation Board and coached many youth baseball teams sometimes coaching his son. John was an avid gardener and shared his tomatoes and peppers with his neighbors and friends. Later in life he joined a bowling league and was often seen enjoying his grandchildren's baseball and basketball games. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Chuck Thropp was a Life Member, former Assistant Chief and former President of Southwest Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a member of the Westmoreland County Firemen's Association. As a volunteer fireman, Chuck positively impacted many lives through his service. Early in his volunteer fire service, he pulled a gentleman from a burning structure and provided lifesaving CPR to resuscitate and save the gentleman. Prior to retirement, Chuck had been employed by Supervalu in New Stanton, PA. He was a lifelong resident of Southwest Greensburg and devoted much of his spare time coaching recreational youth baseball, softball and football. He was an active outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a member of Youngwood Sportsmen's Club. Chuck's family was very important to him, and he enjoyed spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. **Banner location: S. Main Street**



Samuel William Wood  
**Banner location: S. Main Street**

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## About the Greensburg Community Development Corporation (GCDC)

*The Greensburg Community Development Corporation (GCDC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established to assist with the development and revitalization of downtown Greensburg. For nearly 50 years, we have obtained dilapidated properties for redevelopment, secured land for new construction, and helped to attract new businesses to the City. The GCDC is not a department of the City of Greensburg, but a separately funded non-profit organization that works closely with the City to assist businesses, institutions, property owners, and residents in implementing community development programs.*

- GCDC launched the COVID-19 Relief Main Street Jump-Start Program in 2020. This program awarded grants of \$10,000 or less to 36 City of Greensburg small businesses to aid in their recovery from the pandemic. A combined total of \$230,000 was awarded to Greensburg small businesses in Rounds 1 & 2 of the program.
- GCDC provides matching grants for façade, storefront, sign upgrades and improvements through our Façade Improvement Grant Program. Since the program's launch in 2007, the GCDC has awarded over \$175,000 to City businesses and property owners who've made improvements to their commercial façade.
- GCDC facilitated the joint agreement of the Greensburg-Salem School District, Westmoreland County, and City of Greensburg to implement LERTA, a 10 year tax abatement program, serving as an incentive to developers to build new and renovate older properties within the city. Developers committing to the project donate a portion of their abated tax to a fund enabling the purchase and upgrade of older properties within the city, called the Greensburg Revitalization Fund (G-Fund).
- GCDC launched Greensburg's inaugural Restaurant Week, highlighting the diverse dining options within the City of Greensburg and promoting local small businesses. This summer's Greensburg Restaurant Week will take place August 20 - 29, 2021!
- GCDC introduced the Greensburg Revitalization Fund (G-Fund) Grant Program, implemented to assist with revitalization efforts of the City of Greensburg including, but not limited to, acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, public infrastructure and programs related to implementation of the City's revitalization strategy.

**\$230,000**

awarded to City  
businesses impacted  
by COVID-19



**\$1.5 MILLION**

of private investment  
leverage supported by  
financial assistance from  
the GCDC in 2020



**\$175,000**

awarded to business  
and property owners for  
improvements made to  
building facades



**\$55,000**

awarded to business and  
property owners as part of  
GCDC's Greensburg  
Revitalization Fund  
Grant Program



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**Ashley Kertes, Executive Director  
www.thinkgreensburg.com**

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