

For Immediate Release: Please contact Kathy Kraeck for further information - vice president, Veterans Square Foundation - kkraeck@live.com. For information regarding participation in the parade, please contact Becky Cecchine – Imttax@lmt.org.

8th Annual Lower Makefield Veterans Parade, Sun., Nov. 9th - 1 pm (Edgewood & Long Acre)
Followed by Veterans Square Monument Dedication Ceremony
(Veterans Square Park – Edgewood & Heacock)

The community is invited to attend the 8th Annual Lower Makefield Veterans Parade on Sun., Nov. 9th beginning at 1 pm on Edgewood Road at Long Acre Lane, culminating with the Veterans Square Monument dedication ceremony at Veterans Square Park, on the corner of Edgewood and Heacock Roads. The parade will feature veterans from various conflicts, the award-winning Pennsbury High School Marching Band, local dignitaries, scout troops, fire trucks, and much more.

Veterans Square Monument was conceived in late 2007 by a local group of veterans and residents as a way to honor those who serve their country, not only at the ceremony following the parade, but as a permanent tribute to their bravery. A design team was formed, the volunteer veterans committee became **Veterans Square Foundation**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and the group has worked for six years to design, plan, and fundraise for the monument.

The purpose is to create a gathering place for residents, friends and neighbors to honor veterans in a peaceful, uplifting park setting, and to educate our children about the sacrifices made by those who serve.

Construction began in June and should be completed shortly before the dedication. The monument consists of a gracefully curved, sloping wall surrounding a flagpole, with the names of over 500 local veterans on our Wall of Honor. There is also a memorial plaque to those who gave their lives in service, and an inspirational civic quote. Atop the tallest point of the wall at 9 feet, a life-size bronze eagle named “Freda” (representing Freedom, Peace and Beauty), will proudly watch over those names engraved in bronze. Many individuals, businesses, and organizations purchased “Freedom Pavers” whose names will be engraved on brick or granite pavers which form the foundation of the monument. Veterans Square Monument was designed by Omnia Group Architects’ **Brian Mann** and built by **Premier Builders** of Lower Makefield; the eagle, by local sculptor **Robert Girandola**.

This year’s **parade marshal** is distinguished Vietnam veteran **Russell Davidson**, a Combat Demolition Specialist who is serving his 4th term as commander of VFW Post 6393. He is representing all Vietnam veterans as those loyal defenders of freedom received much less gratitude upon their return to American soil, than those of other conflicts.

A distinguished NYC jazz vocalist-songwriter named **Marcus Goldhaber**, will perform his original anthem “**Come Home America**” at the dedication ceremony immediately following the parade. It is a spirited and stirring ode to troops around the world designed to improve and strengthen the dialogue between civilians and military families, first released on Veterans Day 2013 – www.youtube.com/watch?v=oms7uOZWUAY.

The **keynote speaker** will be **Douglas A. Miller**, a military historian, familiar with William Penn and his father’s roles as both a Quaker and a veteran. Doug is the director of Pennsbury Manor Historic Site, and has served as Director of Washington Crossing Historic Park.

Veterans Square Foundation will continue to gratefully accept donations for landscaping and maintenance – please visit www.VeteransSquare.org or call 267-274-1195.

All veterans and local scout groups are welcome to participate in the parade. The community is invited to attend the parade and ceremony to show their support for our nation’s veterans. This will be the last opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win the bronze eagle replica of the original gracing the monument. Thanks for spreading the word, and helping us honor our veterans whose bravery and selflessness makes freedom possible for us all!

The parade is a Shine Only Event, and is not rescheduled in the case of heavy rain. However, the dedication will still be held. It would be postponed to the following Sun., Nov. 16th at 1 pm only in the case of lightning on the 9th. A recording will be available by 10 am on the 9th if the weather is questionable – 267-274-1195 and a message placed on our website.

(See Attachments)

Honor – Celebrate – Educate