



# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC

Harrisburg Chapter #76 — York Camp, Heroes of '76



## President's Message

Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 News  
CW5 Darwin Gaston, President

It doesn't seem possible that our MAY meeting is coming up soon and suddenly there will be summer activities. Our meeting is on Thursday, May 9th at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. For the past two months we have had over 90 members attending our meetings. Let's try and make it three in a row. Thanks to Brother Eric Berger, he has been putting us in the ballroom in the Scottish Rite Cathedral. We couldn't ask for a nicer location to have our chapter meetings every month. If you have not been attending, please come and join us for great evening of fellowship with your brothers along with a delicious meal before our monthly meeting.



Our speaker for the evening will be Commander Steve Funck, Ret., USN. He attended Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI in November 1974 and was commissioned in the United States Navy Supply Corps. His duty stations included: USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67); Asst. OIC, Navy Fuel Depot, Jacksonville, FL; Fuels Officer Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia; The Navy Energy Office (OPNAV 413); Supply Officer USS SEATTLE (AOE-3); Comptroller/Director of Supply, Naval Educational Training Center, Newport, RI; and Chief of Inventory Management, Defense Fuel Supply Center.

It's time to celebrate mothers, as Mother's Day falls on Sunday, May 12th. Armed Forces Day is celebrated Saturday, May 18th. Don't forgot to thank a veteran or someone currently serving. Please pay proper homage to those who gave the last full measure in the service to our country! We have traditional activities with family and friends on Memorial Day Monday, May 27th. Remember the real reason of the day by attending a Memorial Day service or a parade.

## Scheduled Guest Speakers and Activities

Social Gathering 5:15 PM Dinner 6:00 PM Meeting 6:45 PM

**9 May 24 - Commander Steve Funck, Ret. USN, Election of 2024-2025 Chapter Officers**

**13 Jun 24 - Bro. Glenn Kurzenknabe, PP, Installation of 2024-2025 Chapter Officers**

### HEROES' Bivouacs

**23 May 24 - Bivouac/Encampment and Hero Initiation 6:00pm**

## Details for Flag Placement at Ft Indiantown Gap National Cemetary

Issue #41 May 2024

**May 21st at 9AM** - A small group will meet and lay out the grid system.

**May 22nd at 9AM** - Flag placement will commence, all vehicles will be parked in the overflow lot. Carpooling is highly encouraged, with sign directing you to this lot, and we are working on getting a shuttle service to transport volunteers to the main work area. Volunteer's will report to the large Flag poll Area to receive instructions. Comfortable footwear is highly encouraged as the banks are steep.

**May 29th at 9AM** - Flag retrieval will commence, all vehicles will be parked in the overflow lot again. Carpooling is highly encouraged, with sign directing you to this lot, and we are working on getting a shuttle service to transport volunteers to the main work area. Volunteer's will report to the large Flag poll Area to receive instructions. Comfortable footwear is highly encouraged as the banks are steep.

***These events will go on rain or shine as we have limited window to perform these tasks.***

if anyone has contacts with any van services pleaser let me know, we are looking to get a shuttle from parking lot to work areas!

Any questions please contact  
Keith Murray  
KEMGAMurray@AOL.COM  
717 592-0573



## Harrisburg Chapter #76 MEMBERSHIP

**As of April 30, 2024**

Primary Members-In-Perpetuity	241
Annual Active Members	43
Honorary Members-In-Perpetuity	34
Annual Honorary Members	4
Multiple Members-In-Perpetuity	27
Total Chapter Membership	349

York Camp Heroes of '76 168

The Chapter also has 197 Inactive Members-In-Perpetuity who laid down their working tools.

## Toast to the Flag by Brother David Ball, Past President





### **Education & Training** **by Brother Secretary Tom Gordon**

#### **Brother Sojourners,**

Harrisburg Chapter #76 has a formal dress code for our meetings, which being a jacket and tie, with your Nametag and Sojourners Medal. This is the official dress at the Chapter meetings, much like the mandatory Masonic apron in the Blue Lodge. Only the Chapter's elected President may authorize a deviation from this dress code, collectively, or on a case-by-case basis. If your Nametag, Plastic Sleeve or Sojourners Medal become lost, broken, or worn, please see the Chapter Secretary to purchase replacements.

Additionally, if you are a Member-In-Perpetuity (MIP) make sure you are wearing a silver star on your Sojourners Medal and if you are a MIP of multiple Chapters, you are authorized to wear multiple stars in a vertical row on your Sojourners Medal (up to four). For more guidance on wearing Sojourners medals, TitleBars, MIP stars, and neckbands, see the Chapter Secretary.

At Chapter meetings we are all Brothers, regardless of military or civilian rank, and should be addressed as "Brother (First Name or Last Name)" or their Masonic or Sojourner title such as "Worshipful Master" or "Brother President." Use common sense. We are a group of like-minded men who have commonality of background in military and/or Masonic experiences, sharing in good fellowship. Rotate beyond your usual dinner table Brothers and expand your close Masonic friendships.

### **Build the Flag Program.**



Brothers Barry Shaffer, Rick Schultz and Gene McCaleb (left to right) performed the "Build the Flag Program" for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Dillsburg.



### **Scottish Rite Spring Reunion** **of the Valley of Harrisburg**

If you have a desire to continue your Masonic journey, you need to consider joining the Scottish Rite. That opportunity will be available at the Spring Reunion of the Valley of Harrisburg.

It will be held on May 17 and 18, 2024 (Friday evening - arrive at 4:00 PM for dinner and registration) There is a full day on Saturday and the Valley closes by 5:00 PM. All degrees are conferred in a "class setting", if that concerns you. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be served. You will see nine meaningful and inspiring degrees and become a 32nd Degree Mason! The cost is \$290. Make checks payable to the "Valley of Harrisburg". **I need your petition and check by May 10, latest!**

You can ask another member to sign it, or I will take care of getting it signed. Call or e-mail with questions or to request a petition.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
Bro. Glenn R. Kurzenknabe, PP  
Phone: 717-774-1728

### **April Guest Speakers;**

Top three youth essay contest winners presented their essays on "Causes of the American Revolutionary War"





# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC

Harrisburg Chapter #76 - York Camp, Heroes Chapter #76



## Welcome New Members!



Welcome to our new members initiated at the April 2024 meeting; Brothers, Eric M. Brown, Gerard J. Bucko, Richard U. Kase and Glenn C. Ness II

## Web Site links for you;

National Sojourners - <https://nationalsojourners.org/>

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania – <http://www.pagrandlodge.org>

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge – <http://www.freedomsfoundation.org>

Military Order of World Wars – <http://www.moww.org>

Copy and paste the link to your browser for more information

## Scenes from our April Meeting



## Military History

Issue #41 May 2024

The U.S. Navy regulations for 1818 were the first to prescribe a specific manner for rendering gun salutes (although gun salutes were in use before the regulations were written down). Those regulations required that “When the President shall visit a ship of the United States’ Navy, he is to be saluted with 21 guns.” It may be noted that twenty-one was the number of states in the Union at that time. For a time thereafter it became customary to offer a salute of one gun for each state in the Union, although in practice there was a great deal of variation in the number of guns actually used in a salute.

In addition to salutes offered to the President and heads of state, it was also a tradition in the U.S. Navy to render a “national salute” on 22 February (Washington’s Birthday) and 4 July (the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence).

A 21 gun salute for the President and heads of state, Washington’s Birthday, and the Fourth of July became the standard in the United States Navy with the issuance of new regulations on 24 May 1842. Those regulations laid out the specifics:

“When the President of the United States shall visit a vessel of the navy, he shall be received with the following honors: The yards shall be manned, all the officers shall be on deck in full uniform, the full guard shall be paraded and present arms, the music shall play a march, and a salute of twenty-one guns shall be fired. He shall receive the same honors when he leaves the ship.”

“Upon the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States, the colors shall be hoisted at sunrise, and all the vessels of the navy shall, when in port, be dressed, and so continue until the colors are hauled down at sunset, if the state of the weather and other circumstances will allow it. At sunrise, at meridian, and at sunset, a salute of twenty-one guns shall be fired from every vessel in commission mounting six guns and upwards.”

“On the twenty-second day of February, the anniversary of the birth of Washington, a salute of twenty-one guns shall be fired at meridian from every vessel of the navy in commission mounting six guns and upwards.”

Today, the national salute of twenty-one guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the President, former Presidents, and the President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, former President, or President-elect, on Washington’s Birthday, Presidents Day, and the Fourth of July. On Memorial Day, a salute of twenty-one minute guns is fired at noon while the flag is flown at half mast.



### *Proposed Donation and Gift Policy for Masonic Youth*

#### **DONATION AND GIFT POLICY FOR MASONIC YOUTH**

##### *Section 1. Purpose*

The purpose of this policy is to establish a formal process for making donations to Masonic Youth organizations. This policy provides guidance when Harrisburg Chapter No. 76, National Sojourners, Inc. wishes to make donations to Masonic Youth organizations.

##### *Section 2. Types of Donations*

Designated donations mean those donations the Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 specifies for a particular Masonic Youth location, or purpose. Undesignated donations mean those donations that are given to the Masonic Youth for an unspecified use. Donations will be made in the form of a check issued by Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 Treasurer.

##### *Section 3. Consistency with Harrisburg Chapter No. 76*

Donations may be made when they have a purpose consistent with the Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 goals and objectives and are in the best interest of Masonic Youth.

#### *Distinguished Sojourners*

SFC Sammy L. Davis, USA (Ret) Medal of Honor Recipient enlisted in the United States Army from Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1965. In March 1967, Davis was sent to South Vietnam as a private first class, and was assigned to Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. On November 18, 1967, his unit at Firebase Cudgel (10.4198°N 105.991°E) west of Cai Lay, fell under machine gun fire and heavy mortar attack by an estimated three companies of Viet Cong from the 261st Viet Cong Main Force Battalion, which swarmed the area from the south and then west. Upon detecting an enemy position, Davis manned a machine gun to give his comrades covering fire so they could fire artillery in response. Davis was wounded, but ignored warnings to take cover, taking over the unit's



Only one donation will be made to a given Masonic Youth organization per calendar year, unless determined otherwise by the Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 officers.

The following Masonic Youth organizations meet those goals and objectives.

- A. DeMolay
- B. Job's Daughter
- C. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

##### *Section 4. Designated Donations*

All donations to the Masonic Youth organization for consideration are based on the value of the donation as outlined below. Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 shall review all donation requests and determine if the benefits are warranted. The following points list the threshold amounts for donation.

A. Donations for Masonic Youth organization will be valued at least \$100 and voted on by the members.

B. Donations valued larger than \$100 must be reviewed by the Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 Executive Committee officers before bringing it to a vote before the members.

burning howitzer and firing several shells himself. He also disregarded his inability to swim due to a broken back, and crossed a river there on an air mattress to help rescue three wounded American soldiers. He ultimately found his way to another howitzer site to continue fighting the NVA attack until they fled. The battle lasted two hours. Davis was subsequently promoted to sergeant and received the Medal of Honor the following year from President Lyndon B. Johnson.[8] After he was presented the medal at the White house ceremony, Davis played "Oh Shenandoah" on his harmonica in memory of the men he served with in Vietnam. Davis retired in 1984 due to his war-time injuries.

In 1994, footage of his Medal of Honor award ceremony was used in the film Forrest Gump, with actor Tom Hanks' head superimposed over that of Davis.

For Change of address, email address or telephone number

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**120 Evergreen Lane**  
**Palmyra PA 17078-8918 EMAIL: tgordon1951@comcast.net**

Chapter contact information

**National website: <https://nationalsojourners.org>**  
**Facebook: "National Sojourners Harrisburg**  
**Chapter #76**

"When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen." *George Washington*