



# NATIONAL SOJOURNERS, INC

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



Issue #42 June 2024

## President's Message

Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 News  
CW5 Darwin Gaston, President

Please come out this month and support your new officers being installed for 2024-25 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. If you have not been attending, please come and join us for a great evening of fellowship with our fellow Sojourners.



The month of June brings us several key dates. Remember to proudly fly your American Flag on Flag Day, June 14th. The 16th is Father's Day. All of us have had a great man in our life's called Dad. I suspect more of us than not have lost their dad over the years. However, many of us still continue to fulfill that vital role.

As you know this will be my last month as your President and I want to say thanks to everyone for your support. I do not want to be remiss in not thanking my fellow Brothers for stepping forward to fill the positions that needed filled. I hope that you enjoyed listening to the different military speakers each month during my term as president. Also, the Essay Contest winners and the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge youth attendees. This year has gone by quick. Again, I want to thank you for all your support and guidance. It takes the support of all the members to continually make Harrisburg Chapter No.76 the best chapter of National Sojourners!

My last comment is an old Irish traditional way of wishing someone good luck and fortune on their journey through life.

*May the road rise up to meet you.*

*May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face.*

*The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again.*

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Darwin Gaston, President

## Scheduled Guest Speakers and Activities

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

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

**HEROES' Bivouacs**

## Installation of Officers

### Chapter No. 76 Heroes of 76

At the 20 June meeting of Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 National Sojourners, we will install the officers that you elected for the 2024-25 Sojourner year. Please note the date change!

The new officers for both Chapter No. 76 and York Camp of Heroes of 76 will be installed.

Please come out and support your new officers. If you have never witnessed the installation, you will find it impressive. Many members take part in various capacities.

I hope to see you then.

Glenn R. Kurzenknabe,  
Past President, Installing Officer



## Harrisburg Chapter #76 MEMBERSHIP

As of May 31, 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 '76 170

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

## Toast to the Flag by Brother Russ Baker





### Education & Training

#### by Brother Secretary Tom Gordon

##### Brother Sojourners,

In June 2022, at the 103rd Annual National Convention of the National Sojourners, new National Constitution and Bylaws were adopted revising the governing documents and policies of our National Sojourners organization.

While many of the former policies and procedures were kept intact from the former governing documents, the intent was to consolidate the National Sojourners Regulations, Amendments, Circulars, and Resolutions. These previous documents and publications are in the process of being consolidated into the National Sojourners Policies and Procedures Manual.

This is not a simple task as all previous policies, procedures, and governing documents need to be reviewed to insure the fourth-coming Policies and Procedures Manual in not contradicting the newly adopted National Constitution and Bylaws.

Since the new National Constitution and Bylaws have been adopted, each Chapter is required to review their Chapter's Constitution and Bylaws to ensure that their governing documents coincide with the governing documents of the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Therefore, during the summer months of July and August, the Harrisburg Chapter's Executive Committee will review our current Constitution and Bylaws, so that all necessary changes can be ratified at the September 12th Chapter meeting.

While I see no glaring changes, there will be some minor additions to assist our Chapter in running smoothly. These minor changes will be addressed in the September newsletter, before the September meeting.

### May Guest Speaker;

Commander Steve Funck, Ret. USN



### Flag Day origins.

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*That the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white in a blue field, representing the new constellation.*

This was the resolution adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution was made following the report of a special committee which had been assigned to suggest the flag's design. Observance of the adoption of the flag was not soon in coming, however. Although there are many claims to the first official observance of Flag Day, all but one took place more than an entire century after the flag's adoption in 1777.

The first claim was from a Hartford, Conn., celebration during the first summer of 1861. In the late 1800s, schools all over the United States held Flag Day programs to contribute to the Americanization of immigrant children, and the observance caught on with individual communities. The most recognized claim, however, comes from New York. On June 14, 1889, Professor George Bolch, principal of a free kindergarten for the poor of New York City, had his school hold patriotic ceremonies to observe the anniversary of the Flag Day resolution. This initiative attracted attention from the State Department of Education, which arranged to have the day observed in all public schools thereafter. Soon the state legislature passed a law making it the responsibility of the state superintendent of public schools to ensure that schools hold observances for Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day and Flag Day. In 1897, the governor of New York ordered the displaying of the flag over all public buildings in the state, an observance considered by some to be the first official recognition of the anniversary of the adoption of the flag outside of schools.

Another claim comes from Philadelphia. In 1893, the Society of Colonial Dames succeeded in getting a resolution passed to have the flag displayed on all of the city's public buildings. Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin and the president of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania, that same year tried to get the city to call June 14 Flag Day. Resolutions by women were not granted much notice, however, and it was not until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish the June 14 Flag Day as a legal holiday. Flag Day is a nationwide observance today, but Pennsylvania is the only state that recognizes it as a legal holiday.





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## York Camp Color Guard.

The York Camp Color Guard presented the colors at the 171st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania on Saturday, 18 May. The Color Guard consisted of Jack Vickery, Gene Meashey and Al Vasko. The members of the Color Guard were attired in their Colonial Uniforms and period muskets. In addition, Bryan Hill, Past Commander delivered the Toast to the Flag, in Colonial Uniform. Their appearance was well received by the Sir Knights and their ladies.



York Camp Color Guard, left to right Jack Vickery, Gene Meashey and Al Vasko.



Bryan Hill, Past Commander giving the Toast to the Flag.

## Scenes from our May Meeting



## Massing of the Colors Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery May 22, 2024 – May 29, 2024

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Harrisburg Chapter #76 honored our Veterans during the Memorial Day weekend by placing over 7,000 American Flags and 360 Pennsylvania State flags at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, representing those Veterans who died since September 11, 2001 in military service to our County in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. According to the Department of Defense casualty report, the exact number was 7,064 as of April 9, 2024.

Honoring our Veterans with the "Massing of the Colors" is in honor of all Veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we have in America.

Annually, the Harrisburg Chapter #76 National Sojourners place the "Massing of the Colors" at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on the Memorial Day weekend, and at the Elizabethtown Masonic Village on Veterans Day weekend.

With the help of our Sojourners, school children, and community volunteers, the "Massing of the Colors" has become a tradition of the Harrisburg Chapter's Americanism program.





### Medal Presentation



Brother Ken Womack, COL ret, Past President presented Cadet Madison Bidniuk (left) and Cadet Ella Pollock (right) the National Sojourners and the Scottish Rite awards. Both cadets are members of the Chambersburg Area Sr. High School Navy JROTC. We extend our congratulations to these deserving individuals.

This month we recognize our Army Brothers, thank you for your service to our nation.



### Distinguished Sojourners

Chief Machinist's Mate, U.S. Navy William Badders (15 Sep 1900-23 Nov 1986) was born in Harrisburg, IL. He enlisted during World War I, and got a taste of battleship and aviation duty before being brought into diving and salvaging work in the mid-1920s. In his oral history he describes the woeful status of the Navy's diving capabilities at the time, and he was in on the ground floor of the improvements that occurred during his career. Of particular interest is his account of the rescue attempts and salvaging of the sunken submarines USS S-51 (SS-162), S-4 (SS-109), and Squalus (SS-192). For his dangerous and aggressive rescue of 18 Squalus crew members, Badders was awarded the Medal of Honor in January 1940.



Sports constitute a prevalent theme throughout Badders' memoir. He played on various professional and semipro baseball and football teams, and he recalls encounters with such greats as Satchel Paige, Lou Gehrig, and Ted Williams. Based on three interviews conducted by John T. Mason Jr. from September through November 1971, the volume contains 157 pages of interview transcript plus an index. The transcript is copyright 1986 by the U.S. Naval Institute; the interviewee has placed no restrictions on its use.

Military Awards: Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, WW I Victory Medal, Yangtse River Patrol Service Medal

Masonic History: Member Sibert Lodge at Gatun, Canal Zone, was Worshipful Master from 1949 to 1951, and member of National Sojourners.

For Change of address, email address or telephone number

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**Chapter #76**

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