

THE GIBBONS MISSION



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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS 4TH. DEGREE ASSEMBLY
The July 2022 Meeting Is Cancelled

Life is like a song. It may be happy, or sad. When it ends, it basically means you're dead!

LEST WE FORGET HISTORY

On July 2, 1776, in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress adopted the resolution, introduced by Richard Henry Lee and John Adams, which actually declared independence from Great Britain.

The Declaration, which explained why the Colonies (now States) declared their independence, was adopted by the Continental Congress **July 4, 1776**. The leading draftsman was Thomas Jefferson, assisted by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

What happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

- ◆ **Five** signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.
- ◆ **Twelve** had their homes ransacked and burned.
- ◆ **Two** lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, **another** had two sons captured.
- ◆ **Nine** of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

John Q. Adams, son of John Adams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, wrote: *"Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedoms. I hope you will make good use of it."*

ASSEMBLY 150 S.K. OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

Thomas D. Green		Navigator
John Bordonaro		Captain
Rev. Christopher P. Hanley		Friar
Robert Kerrigan		Admiral
		Pilot
Joseph E. Koskol		Scribe
Lawrence B. Maguire		Comptroller
Michael Handlin		Purser
Gerald Safranski	To serve →	Trustee 1 Year
Albert J. Ware	To serve →	Trustee 2 Years
Frank Strawser	To serve →	Trustee 3 Years
James R. Metz		Inner Sentinel
John J. Mayberry		Outer Sentinel
Albert J. Ware	<u>Appointed</u>	Commander
Michael Handlin	<u>Appointed</u>	VAVS

Third Degree Affiliated Councils Of Cardinal Gibbons

3751	Blessed Sacrament / Corpus Christi
4548	St. Michael's / Holy Family
6768	Coffee Run/ St. Mary of the Assumption
11384	San Pablo / St. Paul's Wilmington
11469	Our Lady of Fatima
11796	St. John The Beloved
12104	Holy Angels/ St. Johns Newark
12842	St. David's / St. Margaret of Scotland

YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED

Pope Francis, Bishop Koenig, Priests, Deacons, Brothers, Sisters, lay ministers, and seminarians;
all in the Wilmington Diocese and world wide.

- ◆ Those serving in the armed services, veterans, peace officers, EMT's, firemen and all K of C members and their families both living and deceased.
- ◆ All the sick and disabled faithful and any other affected by disease
- ◆ For all those misled by hatred, rumors, lies and inuendo and succumb to violence as a result thereof.
- ◆ Pray for all expectant mothers that they may support the life of their unborn as God's Creation.
- ◆ Pray for the persecuted Christians in the Mid-East, and the end to turmoil in Ukraine
- ◆ Our Faithful Master & the Vice Supreme Master and their families



I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT I SAY, NOT WHAT YOU UNDERSTAND !

We need your help! The Wilmington VAMC is excited to announce the opening of the Wilmington VA Medical Center Food Pantry Mon., as of June 6. The pantry is for Veterans identified by their healthcare teams as having food insecurities. Right now, the cupboards in the pantry are bare. We need your help to stock the shelves full of non-perishable items.

Here is how you can help:

- Go Online and order food from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/HI4SRMI62TBJ?ref=wl_share
- Shop your local grocery stores and drop off the groceries to the Voluntary Service Office, rm 189A, between 8a-430p, Mon-Fri.
- or send a monetary donation to Wilmington VAMC: **General Post Fund (GPF) 9018, Food Pantry**

It is through your ongoing generous contributions, that Voluntary Service can facilitate and support programs that directly impact Veteran patients.

**FROM JAMES COTY, SERVICE CHIEF
VA CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
WILMINGTON VA CENTER**

302-994-2511 EXT. 4545

Volunteers needed at the Delaware State Fair

The State Fair runs from July 21-30 and we need 2 volunteers for 3 (four-hour) shifts daily, 11-3, 3-7, 7-11.

It is in the Market Tent, which is now *air-conditioned* and located on that "Magic mile" as you come through the ticket stand, almost all the way up to the Grandstand on the right is a big white tent. You will be under tent and in air conditioning. Parking is included with admission and is in the large lot, so volunteers will have to walk from lot to tent. (They provide a jitney.) We send out tickets to all volunteers. For more information contact:

prolifedelaware@gmail.com

We try to educate about what's happening in DE most recently, so will have info regarding the Bills from the legislative session, any petitions we want signed, etc. this is a Right to life/ Pro-Life display This is the sign up link: [DRTL DE STATE FAIR BOOTH SIGN UP LINK](#)

The exhibit looks like this:



As Editor, I must insert a comment here. I will not recant, modify or apologize for this statement

To those "pro-abortion" mobs, judiciary and politicians— a standing invitation is extended as follows:

Ask for an invitation, go to your nearest PPC or abortion clinic and ask to witness an actual procedure whereby an unborn or partially born infant child's life is ended....and remain unless you become sickened and leave.

On recent TV, Attorney Mark Levin, described the "medical" instruments used and how the infant is subject to a painful death. The graphics were not televised per order of the network.

Human life exists within and without the womb....civil laws only protect the "without" SHALOM

INDEPENDENCE DAY... OR THE FOURTH OF JULY?

The federal government of the United States officially designates “Independence Day, July 4” as a “legal public holiday.” *Independence Day* is also widely referred to as *July 4*, *July 4th*, *the Fourth of July*. Data indicates that, of the terms, *Independence Day* is most common, but keep in mind that is likely because many other countries around the world observe their own *independence days*, marking when they became independent from a foreign power. That said, *Independence Day* is widely known in specific reference to the US’s national independence.

The term *Independence Day* is recorded as early as 1790, but the term *Fourth of July*, in reference to the US independence, is found as early 1779. Of course, the *Independence Day/4th of July* commemorates the events of July 4, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the [Declaration of Independence](#), which declared the Thirteen Colonies to be free and independent of England.

The Second Continental Congress, which formed after the start of the American Revolution in 1775, voted to declare their independence (sovereignty) on July 2, but the Declaration of Independence, the document largely authored by Thomas Jefferson explaining this vote, was adopted on July 4th. When the Founding Fathers actually signed the document, however, remains disputed. American independence from the British monarchy was secured in 1783, marking the end of American Revolution in 1783. After the July 2 vote, John Adams famously wrote to Abigail, his wife:

The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Indeed, Americans commemorate their independence this way—but on July 4th, of course.

While celebrations of the *4th of July* have taken place since 1777, it wasn’t until 1870 (referred to as the *fourth day of July* as a holiday for the District of Columbia) that it became a federal holiday—unpaid for federal employees until 1938. In 1781, Massachusetts was the first state to officially recognize the holiday.

Why are we emphasizing the word *federal* (vs. state and local) here? Because the US does not observe any national holidays mandated by the federal government, although the 4th of July is, in effect, celebrated like an official national holiday. The US Embassy in the UK provides a helpful explanation here:

Technically, the United States does not celebrate national holidays, but Congress has designated 10 “legal public holidays,” during which most federal institutions are closed and most federal employees are excused from work. Although the individual states and private businesses are not required to observe these, in practice all states, and nearly all employers, observe the majority of them.

Remarkably, both Thomas Jefferson (the US president who enslaved the most people) and John Adams (one of the few of the early presidents who didn’t) both died on July 4, 1826.

The American Revolutionary War The Campaigns & Battles

These campaigns were more than skirmishes, but there was a Battle at Cooch's Bridge DE, which is often forgotten.

Lexington	19 April 1775
Ticonderoga	10 May 1775
Boston	17 June 1775 - 17 March 1776
Quebec	28 August 1775 - July 1776
Charleston	28 - 29 June 1776 and 29 March - 12 May 1780
Long Island	26 - 29 August 1776
Trenton	26 December 1776
Princeton	3 January 1777
Saratoga	2 July - 17 October 1777
Brandywine	11 September 1777
Germantown	4 October 1777
Monmouth	28 June 1778
Savannah	29 December 1778 and 16 September - 10 October 1779
Cowpens	17 January 1781
Guilford Court House	15 March 1781
Yorktown	28 September - 19 October 1781

The Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Preamble

The Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



Play me a Melody



Listening to music, the tinkle of the Ivory Keys, or the sound of an Acoustic guitar has been known to have a song in your heart or your foot tapping to a song. Imagine for just a second how it might help a veteran waiting at the VAMC for that appointment. Maybe it is the first time there, not knowing where to go “not knowing” could be the key statement.

Suddenly, someone sits at the piano, or opens the guitar case and soft sounds begin. Maybe it is a tune from the 50’s,60’s,70’s -the veteran listens to the music and does not focus so much on the ticking of the clock.

The VAMC in Wilmington on Kirkwood Highway is looking for individuals, men, or women, graduates from Salesianum, St. Elizabeth’s, St. Mark’s, and even Archmere who will sit at the piano or bring their guitar and just play music in the mornings at VA maybe for an hour. Are you willing to play for the greatest audience ever-our Veterans! Jim Coty is looking for you! Piano players, Guitar players are needed in the mornings to play for veterans, as the veterans wait for their appointments or interviews.

You do not need to be a Concert pianist or play First Chair in an orchestra. Just be willing. If you have the skills, join men such as Dennis or Bob or Grace, and Juli, and others who give of their time for our veterans.

Contact Jim Coty at the VA, room 189, phone number-302-994-2511 extension 4545.

Gibbon’s Moments

1. Keep this number handy to help a veteran in stress-Call 800-273-8255, then select the #1 on the keypad.
2. The Assembly is using Jacque Lawson E-cards from the UK. We are trying to stay in touch the modern way.
3. Saturday, August 13, is the Feast Day for Our Founder Blessed Michael J. McGivney in the U.S.

Something relevant to recent news for this Newsletter

Define Pro-Life....define Life....define a human person
Define Abortion....find all definitions

Which sounds more positive?

Does “religion” support or refer to life?
Does “Christianity” support or refer to life?
Do the Scriptures support ‘abortion’?

Can ‘government’ regulate the creation of life?
Is an un-born a human prior to exiting the womb?
Does a Birth Certificate make a new-born a human?



EDITORS'S INTERVENTION BASED ON REMARK AT THE TOP OF PAGE 5

There are differences between military terms i.e., Campaigns, isolated Battles and skirmishes.

The "Battle of Cooch's Bridge" otherwise known at the "Battle of Iron Hill": took place September 3, 1777

Location: Old Baltimore Pike East of DE. 896 and West of DE Rte. 72. The bridge over the Christina Creek is still there. [Although rebuilt since]

The Continental Army and the American militia and primarily German soldiers serving alongside the British Army were engaged in the only significant military action during the war on the soil of Delaware [although there were also naval engagements off the coast of the state.] The engagement at Cooch's Bridge took place a week before the major Battle of Brandywine. Some traditions claim this as the first battle which saw the US Flag displayed.

After landing in Maryland on August 25 as part of a campaign to take Philadelphia, British and German forces under the overall command of General William Howe began moving North. Their advance was monitored by a light infantry corps of Continental Army and militia that was based at Cooch's Bridge, South of Newark, DE. On September 3, German troops leading the British advance were met by musket fire from the US light infantry in the woods on either side of the road [Now Old Baltimore Pike] leading toward Cooch's Bridge. Reinforcements arrived and they flushed the Americans out and drove them across the bridge. The Americans lost the battle.

There is an extensive background to this "skirmish", but before that, some statistics:

Great Britain, Hessians, and the Ansbach were under the command of Sir William Howe and Lt. Col. Ludwig von Wurmb. They had 1,300 British Light Infantry and 450 Jagers [Hessians] under command.

The local American commander was William Maxwell who had 1,000 men under his command. The Americans suffered 20 killed and 20 wounded. Britain had 23 to 30 killed or wounded. Why this was a rout for the Americans has never been explained.

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AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY IN THREE SEGMENTS: BACKGROUND, BATTLE, LEGACY AND AFTERMATH....

Having taken New York City in 1776, British planners organized two expeditions to divide the 13 Colonies and, they hoped decisively end the rebellion. One expedition was to take control of the Hudson river by coming down from Quebec, while the other targeted Philadelphia. In pursuit of the second objective, Lt. General William Howe embarked an army of 18,000 + 5,000 camp followers onto transports in late July, 1777 and sailed from NYC to the Chesapeake Bay. The Continental Army of Major General George Washington remained near NYC until Howe's objective was confirmed. Howe's plan was to move South, intending to move against Philadelphia via the Chesapeake Bay. Washington marched his army numbering about 16,000 through Philadelphia and set up a camp at Wilmington DE. Scouting further South and West on August 26, Washington learned the British had landed.

On August 25, Howe's army disembarked below a town call Head of Elk, [now known as Elkton] and located at the head of navigation of the Elk River in Maryland, about 50 miles South of Philadelphia. Due to the poor quality of the landing area, his army moved quickly to the North, reaching Head of Elk on August 28. Advance soldiers of the light infantry and

COOCH'S BRIDGE...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

German Jager, moved East crossing Elk Creek and taking Gray's Hill, about one mile West of Iron Hill, near Cooch's Bridge, which was a few miles South of Newark. The bridge was named after Thomas Cooch, a local farmer whose house is SW of the bridge. There are two original long cannon outside the farm entrance, pointing at Old Baltimore Pike.

Washington would normally have assigned the duties of advance guard to Daniel Morgan and his riflemen, but he had detached these to help Horatio Gates in the defense of the Hudson River Valley against the advance of General John Burgoyne. Since there were no troops available, he organized a light infantry corps consisting of 700 picked men from the Continental Army regiments [including future Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall, who would continue to fight in the coming battle] and about 1,000 Pennsylvania & Delaware militia, and placed them under the command of Brigadier General William Maxwell. These troops occupied Iron Hill and Cooch's Bridge. General Nathanael Greene advocated moving the entire Continental Army to this position, believing the Christina River to be a more defensible point, but Washington declines, instead ordering Maxwell to monitor British movements and slow its advance while the rest of the army fortified the Red Clay Creek and Wilmington. Maxwell's men were encamped on either side of the road leading South from Cooch's Bridge toward Aiken's Tavern [present day Glasgow] in a series of camps designed to facilitate ambushes. On August 28, Washington, atop Iron Hill and Howe on Gray's Hill, observed each other as they took stock of the enemy's position; one of the Hessian generals wrote, "These gentlemen observed us with their glasses as carefully as we observed them. Those of our officers who know Washington well, maintained that the man in the plain coat was General Washington."

On September 2, Howe's right wing, under the command of the Hessian General Wilhelm von Knyphausen, left Cecil County Court House and headed North, slowed by rain, bad roads and poor health of his soldiers. Early the next morning, Howe's left wing, headed by troops under the command of Charles Cornwallis, left Head of Elk, expecting to join with Knyphausen's division at Aikens tavern, about 5 miles East. Cornwallis reached the tavern first, and Howe, traveling with Cornwallis, decided to continue North without waiting for Knyphausen.

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THE BATTLE [A BIT MORE THAN A BRIEF SKIRMISH] 9/3/1777

A small company of Hessian dragoons led by Captain Johann Ewald headed by the road from the tavern toward the bridge as Cornwallis's advance continued. This contingent was hit by a volley of fire from an American ambush and many of them were either killed or wounded. Ewald remained unwounded and quickly alerted the Hessian and Ansbach Jager, who rushed forward to meet the Americans. This began a running skirmish that Major John Andre described as follows: "Here the rebels began to attack us about 9 AM with a continued irregular fire for two miles." Howe rode to the front lines and seeing Iron Hill crawling with the American enemy, ordered his troops to clear them out. At this time Maxwell's force was defending the Hill, while the rest were protecting the bridge. The Jager, over 400 troops, led by Lt. Col. Wurmb, formed a line and, with artillery, advanced against the Americans. Von Wurmb sent one detachment to Maxwell's left, hoping to outflank him and supported this move with a bayonet charge against the American center.

The battle lasted most of the day at Cooch's Bridge. Maxwell's men made a stand until they "had shot themselves out of ammo" and "the fight was carried on with the sword" and bayonet [the latter being a weapon Maxwell's militia lacked experience in using].

COOCH'S BRIDGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

After 7 hours of fighting, the Americans were forced to retreat from Iron Hill, across Cooch's Bridge, taking positions on the far right. Howe ordered the 1st. And 2nd. British Light Infantry Battalions to assist the Jager in taking the bridge. While the 1st Battalion under Robert Abercromby became mired in swampy terrain attempting to ford the Christina, the 2nd. Battalion reached the right flank of the Jager and the bridge was taken. Maxwell's army retreated East towards Wilmington.

Casualty reports for the British range from 3 killed and 20 wounded to about 30 killed or wounded. One British deserter reported that 9 wagon loads of wounded were sent back the fleet on the Chesapeake. The Americans claim 20 killed and another 20 wounded and Washington, in a letter to Congress said the losses were "not very considerable", however the British reported burying 41 Americans, and Howe's official report claimed "not less than fifty killed and many more wounded". General Maxwell was criticized for his leadership by a number of Washington's subordinates. One foreign officer with service in the Prussian Army commented to Henry Laurens in reference to Maxwell, "Your soldiers are very good men, so good as any brave men in the world, but your officers, my dear Colonel., your officers not".

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AFTERMATH

General Cornwallis occupied the farm of Thomas Cooch. Howe's forces remained at Iron Hill for 5 days. In a letter to Congress, Washington justified by defeat at Cooch's Bridge: "This morning the enemy came out with considerable force and three cannon, against our Light advanced Corps, and after some pretty smart skirmishing, obliged them to retreat, being far inferior in number and without cannon." Certain that Howe would advance along the main road to Wilmington in his bid to take Philadelphia, Washington continued to fortify the city and the Red Clay creek region. He moved his headquarters from Wilmington to Newport, DE and the army formed defenses between Newport and Marshallton. While Howe's army remained in places, the two forces engaged in small skirmishes over the next few days. One officer under Howe noted that the rebel patrols, which usually consist of 10 to 15 dragoons and 20 to 30 infantry, now appear more often and they fire at our posts on occasions."

Sensing an attack coming, Washington told his troops on September 5, "Should they push their design against Philadelphia, on this route, their all is at stake—they will put the contest on the event of a single battle: if they are overthrown, they are utterly undone—the war is at the end." Two days later, upon hearing that [Gates's Army] noble spirit.... "Who is there without ambition, to share with them, the applauses of their countrymen, and of all prosperity, as the defenders of Liberty, and the procurers of peace and happiness of millions in the present and future generations? Two years we have maintained the war and struggled with difficulties innumerable. The prospect since has brightened, and our affairs put on a better face—Now is time to reap the fruits of all our tolls and dangers! The eyes of all America and of Europe are turned upon us".

But the attack never came. Instead, on September 8, Howe moved his army North, through Newark DE and Hockessin into Pennsylvania. Upon realizing what the British were doing late in the night, Washington rushed his forces North as well to find a better defense position. He settled on Chadds Ford, just across the Delaware border, upon the Brandywine River, the last natural defense before the Schuylkill River and Philadelphia. It was there that the two armies clashed again at the Battle of the Brandywine on September 11. The British victory paved their way for their eventual entry into and occupation of Philadelphia.

This success was more than offset by the failure of the expedition to the Hudson, in which General Burgoyne surrendered his army after the Battles of Saratoga, in October. News of Burgoyne's surrender greatly changed the war, because it [and the Battle of Germantown, fought after the British occupied Philadelphia] was a major factor in France's decision to enter the war as an American ally in 1778.

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LEGACY OF COOCH'S BRIDGE

The site of the battle has been preserved as the Cooch's Bridge Historic District, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2003, the Cooch family sold Delaware some land as well as the development rights for an additional 200 acres of land in the area of the battlefield. They also established a \$1.5 million fund to restore and maintain the property, and granted Delaware a right of first refusal to purchase the Thomas Cooch house, which remained with the family.

In 2007, the 230th. Anniversary of the battle was commemorated by a re-enactment event hosted by the recreated 2nd. Virginia Regiment.

The Battle of Cooch's Bridge is memorialized on the coat of arms for Glasgow High School, which is built on part of the battlefield. It shows Continental soldiers fighting British Army soldiers, while flying the "Betsy Ross flag". In 2010 the Christina School District All-District honor Band performed a selection written and named for the event: "The Battle of Cooch's Bridge March".

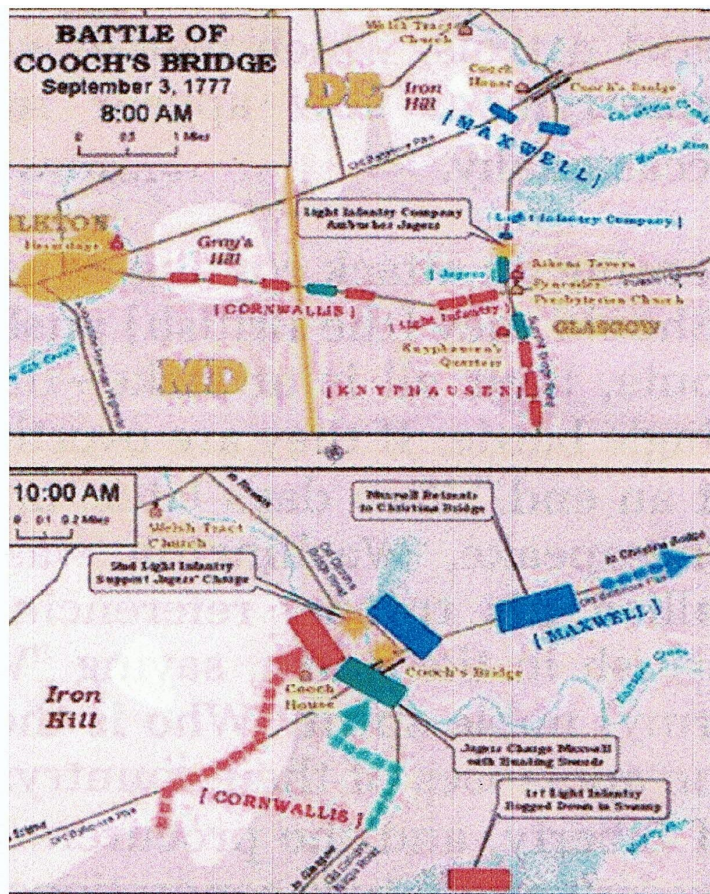
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Two clarifications needed after reading the above>

Jager [German] defined as a 'hunter' and They were defined as Light Infantry.

Ansbach: German town in Bavaria, in the Middle Franconia district. The Margrave Of Ansbach sent 2,500 Jager to help the British against the Americans. They were called Hessians, which was not correct. The Jager were paid mercenaries, and also were the mercenaries from Hesse, however Hesse was a Northern Region of Germany.

General Sir William Howe





SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

TOWN OF WHITEHALL

801 MAPLETON AVENUE
MIDDLETOWN, DE 19709

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS,
AND NEIGHBORS IN THE MILITARY WITH A DAY
FILLED WITH GREAT MUSIC, LAUGHTER, AND FUN!

10K RUCK

5K RUN
& FAMILY
WALK

VET FEST WELCOMES HOME
IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN
VETERANS

Start of Club Phred & Mark Farmer
mercy of Grand Funk allroad

8:30 AM Volunteers Arrive
9:00 AM Registration
& Bib Pick-Up
9:15 AM National Anthem
& Pep Rally for 10K
9:30 AM 10K Ruck Start
12:00 PM Awards, Lunch,
& Music

8:30 AM Volunteers Arrive
9:00 AM Registration
& Bib Pick-Up
10:45 AM National Anthem
& Pep Rally for 5K
11:00 AM 5K Start
12:00 PM Awards, Lunch,
& Music

9-11 AM Veteran Groups
Arrive & Set Up
12:00 PM Awards, Lunch,
& Music
12-2 PM Veteran & civilian
Group Social
2:00 PM Event Concludes

ADMISSION SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION OF \$5.00 AT THE DOOR



FOR INFORMATION & EVENT REGISTRATION, VISIT
WWW.VETFESTDELAWARE.COM OR SCAN QR CODE



VET FEST MISSION:

The mission of 22in22 is to connect the military and civilian communities in order to better equip our active duty and veteran military for life. We do this by supporting the non-profit **Stop Soldier Suicide, Inc.** and their mission, educating the community about the needs of our warriors, and engaging the community to take action.





WELCOME HOME CONCERT

HONORING IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN VETERANS

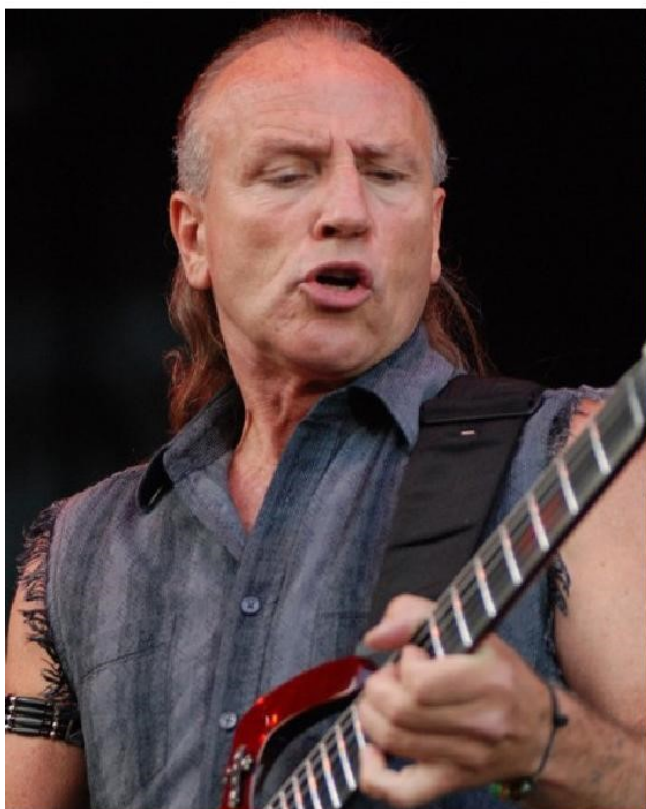
STARRING

Mark Farner

(Formerly of Grand Funk Railroad)

WITH VERY SPECIAL GUEST

Club Phred



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

TOWN OF WHITEHALL

801 MAPLETON AVENUE
MIDDLETOWN, DE 19709



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