



The County of Chester
RECORDER OF DEEDS
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CHRIS PIELLI, Esq., Recorder
Diane O'Dwyer, First Deputy

NANCY W. PINE, Esq., Solicitor
Erin VanRyn, Second Deputy

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Contact Kim Bydlon at (610) 344-6711

Photo Information: Selected images attached. Additional information provided upon request.

Chester County Veterans Attend Recorder of Deeds' Free Breakfast

EXTON, PA – The Chester County Recorder of Deeds, Chris Pielli, Esq., hosted a free breakfast with veterans' affairs discussion and mini-expo on Wednesday, November 2, for all county veterans at the Laborers' District Council Education & Training Center in Exton.

Opening ceremonies began at 9:00 a.m. with an introduction and welcome from Pielli, Master of Ceremonies, a Presentation of Colors by the Coatesville Area Senior High School AFJROTC PA-771 cadets led by Lt. Col. James E. Turnbull, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a live performance of the national anthem by Recorder of Deeds' Special Projects Coordinator and professional vocalist Kim Bydlon. U.S. Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, State Representative Kristine Howard, Chester County Commissioners Marian Moskowitz and Josh Maxwell, and Chester County Veterans' Affairs Director Susan Price addressed 100 veteran attendees from the podium to address current initiatives and updates in veterans' affairs.

Hot and cold breakfast with coffee and tea was served, and 20 veterans service organizations shared resources, career opportunities, and services on-site. Pielli announced a special recognition of 100-year-old WWII Army veteran, Sgt. Francis "Frankie" DiSanti, who served in the Pacific theater, fought in the Battle of Luzon, and was awarded the bronze star. A new addition to the program was the presenting of the Recorder of Deeds' first ever annual "Veterans' Advocate of the Year" award to Fred Ries, Marine Corps veteran and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 654, who attended with wife Beth.

"We host this breakfast every year to give thanks for the service and sacrifice of roughly 25,000 veterans residing in Chester County whose service range from World War II to today's conflicts around the world," said Pielli. "The event also serves as a networking opportunity for veteran groups and individuals to continue a collaborative, county-wide conversation about related services, explore ways in which we can learn from each other, and share ideas that successfully support our veterans."

Vendors of the mini-expo included the PA Dept. of Military & Veterans' Affairs, Coatesville VA Medical Center, Veterans' Multi-Service Center (VMC) and Supportive Services for Veteran

Families (SSVF), Legal Aid of SEPA, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Habitat for Humanity of Chester County, and more. The laborers' "Helmets to Hardhats" program allowed for labor unions like Boilermakers Local 13, Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Iron Workers Local 405 and 451, IBEW 654, and Insulators Local 14 to offer servicemembers a seamless job transition into building & trades professions. Event sponsors were First Resource Bank, Lamb McErlane, PC, Citadel Credit Union, Sodexo, Inc., and the Laborers' District Council of Philadelphia.

Some veterans brought their discharge documents (e.g., DD-214s) to the breakfast to be recorded for safeguarding and to receive a County Veteran ID/Discount Card for savings at roughly 100 participating businesses throughout the region. The Chester County Recorder of Deeds is the custodian of military discharges, by statute, with records dating back to 1901, and offers these services free of charge to Veterans 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

The Recorder of Deeds is the county-elected official responsible for managing the repository for real estate records, military discharges and other official documents in Chester County. The office recorded its first deed in 1688.

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