



## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

**Kaylie Moore**

Journalist

724-317-6924, [kmoore@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kmoore@fayettecountypa.info)

**Kristi Rooker Kassimer**

Public Relations, Digital Media Specialist

412-691-0262, [kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FAYETTE ORGANIZATIONS SHOWCASING HOMETOWN HEROES**

**Uniontown, PA** – The Fayette County Historical Society, in partnership with the Senator John Heinz History Center of Pittsburgh and other county organizations, is celebrating local heroes through one-of-a-kind exhibits this spring.

“World War II Hometown Heroes: Fayette County’s Homefront Effort to Win the War” will be on display at the Fayette County Historical Society/Abel Colley Tavern and Museum through May 20.

The exhibit devotes an entire floor to the Heinz History Center’s traveling WWII exhibit, which showcases worldwide war efforts. A second floor focuses on Fayette County’s military contributions locally.

Historical Society Secretary Jo Lofstead said both exhibits contain countless photos, personal artifacts, uniforms, videos, letters and more. She encouraged all county residents to visit the display and explore the thousands of war stories that began in Fayette County.

“The world war was an event of epic, epic proportions and effects,” Lofstead said. “It changed and controlled the destiny of the world, so we really want people to come out and learn about how Fayette County was enormously, definitely and totally involved and about the people that lived here before them - how they contributed, how talented they were and what a significant role they played.

“People need to know that this is where they come from.”

Heinz History Center approached the historical society to host their exhibit after finding success with placement of its traveling Civil War exhibit several years ago, Lofstead said.

The exhibits are on display noon to 4 p.m., Thursday through Sunday or by appointment at 7083 National Pike, Smock. Admission for both exhibits is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free for children 12 and under.

Lofstead said the historical society’s efforts are part of a concurrent collaboration with other county entities - all of which are showcasing war efforts specific to their communities. They include:



- The Fayette County Cultural Trust - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday, Connellsville Canteen, 131 Crawford St., Connellsville.
- Melaga Art Museum - 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, 69 Market St., Brownsville.
- Smock Historical Society - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 24 and May 12, 103 Main St., Smock.
- Uniontown Art Club - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday - Friday and 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, 86 West Main St., Uniontown.
- Uniontown Public Library - hours vary, Monday - Saturday, 24 Jefferson St., Uniontown.
- East End Community Center - hours vary, 150 Coolspring St., Uniontown.

Fayette County Commissioner Dave Lohr said it's important to showcase our hometown heroes because citizens, past and present, have paid the price for freedom. He said his respect for veterans comes from his own military background and hearing stories of what other veterans endured in battle.

"There are no words to describe how I feel except for grateful. They are all heroes," he said. "Veterans, thanks to all for the freedom we have!"

Fayette County Commissioner Vincent Vicites said all war veterans are heroes and very special citizens.

"This Fayette County Historical Society exhibit is tremendous. I encourage residents to visit this exhibit and witness how Fayette County men and women contributed to the winning of World War II," Vicites said.

Fayette County Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink also encouraged county residents and visitors to check out the many county exhibits and pay tribute to all WWII veterans, living and deceased.

"This traveling exhibit shares stories and artifacts of these great men and women known as 'The Greatest Generation,'" Zimmerlink said. "It is not only a tribute but also a learning tool for our young residents and is much needed because, as said, any nation that forgets its veterans ceases to be a great nation."

For more information call 724-439-4422, visit [www.fayettehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fayettehistoricalsociety.org) or search Fayette County Historical Society/Abel Colley Tavern and Museum on Facebook.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.info](http://www.fayettecountypa.info).

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