



MEDIA CONTACTS

Kaylie Moore

Journalist

724-317-6924, kmoore@fayettecountypa.info

Kristi Rooker Kassimer

Public Relations, Digital Media Specialist

412-691-0262, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 16, 2018

FAYETTE COUNTY RETIRES SIGN, HONORS VETERANS

Uniontown, PA – In a symbolic ceremony, Fayette County commissioners retired Uniontown’s U.S. Army Reserve Center sign Wednesday.

The festivities, which honored the Hopwood AmVets Post 103, signified the end of an era and beginning of the county’s journey toward a new county prison.

Fayette County acquired the Federal Army Reserve Center last month, after more than two years of planning.

Located at 245 McClellandtown Road in Uniontown, the reserve center sat vacant for nearly a decade before commissioners Vincent Vicites, Dave Lohr and Angela Zimmerlink received the property deed.

“The Army Reservists that served at the reserve center in Uniontown requested from the General Services Administration the transfer of ownership of the sign when the U.S. Army turned the property over to the county,” Vicites said.

The U.S. General Services Administration provides centralized procurement for government agencies, with a mission of delivering value and savings in real estate, technology, acquisition and other mission-support services.

“A group of organized, local veterans asked that the sign and flag at the armory be given to them for placement at their organization site because many veterans passed through the armory during their service to our country,” Zimmerlink said. “Rather than mothballing the sign or, worse yet, discarding it, I was hoping that a veteran organization would step forward to take possession so that it can be used as a mechanism to remember the past.”

State Rep. Ryan Warner, R-Perryopolis, and State Rep. Matthew Dowling, R-Uniontown, attended Wednesday’s ceremony at the seven-acre property, which includes 15,000 square feet of buildings.

Dowling said AmVets representative Richard Rosner contacted him last year about helping to retrieve the sign and his office was able to connect him with the proper channels.



“It’s always refreshing to see a project through,” Dowling said. “The reserve center has withstood a great deal of time here in Uniontown and I’m happy that the sign will retire to a new home, under the care of veterans who appreciate it most.”

Commissioners acquired the property at no cost from the U.S. Army through the GSA’s Federal Surplus Property Public Conveyance Program.

Originally built in 1956 as office and classroom space, commissioners hope the reserve center will soon alleviate problems with the current 130-year-old county jail, Vicites previously said.

The next step, Vicites added, is for the county to enter into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections for free technical assistance for step-by-step considerations on developing a new prison.

Additionally, a review of the county’s recent prison population assessment will be conducted to ensure continued accuracy as the project moves forward.

Certified appraisals are also under way on the final piece of property adjacent to the reserve center, which the county hopes to then acquire from a private owner via fair market value.

Vicites said the county will continue to move through the process in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

“Special thanks to the U.S. General Services Administration and the United States Army for deeding the property to Fayette County for zero dollars,” he said.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettecountypa.info.

###

This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the 2016 Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.