

## Welcome to Parkside's *Hometown Heroes* program:

The goal—to honor and remember those men and women of Parkside—who have served or are serving in our Armed Forces. We salute them!

A big thanks to Councilman Eric Long, Chairman of the Committee and members Todd Bennett/Editor, *The Parksider*; Mayor Thomas Deitman; Councilman Nick Capobianco and resident Maribeth McGettigan.

Through the efforts of Harrisburg's Ruth Stonesifer, the first *Hometown Heroes* banner was hung in Harrisburg in 2007.

U.S. Army Ranger Kristofor Stonesifer, Ruth's beloved son, served in *Operation Enduring Freedom* in 2001. Stonesifer lost his life in an October 19th, 2001 helicopter crash in Pakistan.

"For some reason, I could not sleep the night of the accident." Stonesifer recalls on her website. "I was out in the living room surfing the news programs. A scroll across the bottom of the screen mentioned that there were two casualties in a helicopter crash in Pakistan. The next morning, when the Army Colonel arrived at my work in his Class A uniform, I knew why he was there. All I said was, 'Pakistan.'"

After her son's death, Stonesifer was determined to connect with others who had lost loved ones. She joined forces with other Gold Star Mothers, hoping to "increase public awareness of the sacrifices our service people are making – those we've lost and those that still serve."

Stonesifer began with the goal of erecting a banner in Harrisburg for every service member lost in Iraq and Afghanistan. According to her website, "about 140, of the then 183 Pennsylvania Gold Star Families, chose to participate." Banners were raised in May of 2007.

Stonesifer says the Harrisburg display moved many people. Gold Star Families soon approached other PA cities and towns, proposing similar honorary banner programs. Individuals from surrounding communities contacted Stonesifer for help with their own Pennsylvania Hometown Heroes programs. "We moved on to Bucks, Berks, and Montgomery counties. People were willing to organize and fundraise, and the banners went up!"

Pennsylvania is proudly honoring veterans more than a decade after its first banner began waving in the breeze. Whether silently scrolling on Stonesifer's website or waving on a banner above their hometown, the faces of Pennsylvania's *Hometown Heroes* will never be forgotten.



# **Parkside Borough *Hometown Hero* Banner Program**

**Applications will be accepted from March 20-May 17, 2021**

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The Parkside Borough *Hometown Hero* Banner Program is a living tribute created for the community to recognize and honor Veterans who are serving or have served our country in the United States Armed Forces. *Please Note: You did not have to serve during a Conflict in order to qualify.*

To qualify, a Veteran, living or deceased, must have had a connection to Parkside Borough (lives or lived in the borough or is related to someone who lives in the borough) at some point in their life; also, those honored on war memorials within the community and Veterans recommended by Organized Veterans Groups, such as, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America, etc. also qualify.

The banner, 30" x 60" heavy vinyl, will be printed the same on both sides, and display the service person's photograph, include their full name, branch of the military, and the era of service (WWI, WWII, Vietnam, etc... or date range if having not served during a conflict). Banners will be displayed on a date to be determined. A banner lasts about 2-3 years, and will be given to you, if you wish, after it has been exposed to damage or fading after that time. If you wish to purchase a replacement banner at any point, the price will be determined at that time.

Each banner requires the *Hometown Hero* Banner form to be completed, a photograph of the hero (preferably in uniform) and a payment of \$175.00 for each banner/shipping/tax/brackets/installation, payable to: "Parkside Borough". Please note "hometown hero" in the memo section. Payment may be mailed to: Parkside Hometown Heroes, 22 East Elbon Road, Parkside, PA 19015—or-- dropped off at Borough Hall during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Phone or credit card payments cannot be accepted.

For questions concerning qualification or application please contact:

Councilman Eric Long @ [Elong@parksideborough.com](mailto:Elong@parksideborough.com)

Todd Bennett, Newsletter Editor/*The Parksider* @ [toddb1441@comcast.net](mailto:toddb1441@comcast.net)

# Parkside Borough *Hometown Hero*-Round 1

## Banner Program

Applications will be accepted from March 20-May 17, 2021

Full Name of Person in Photo: \_\_\_\_\_

Era of service, if any (Conflict: WWI, WWII, Vietnam, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Time period served (if Era of service/conflict is not applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Military: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Service (If available): \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the veteran:    Alive \_\_\_\_\_    Deceased \_\_\_\_\_    KIA \_\_\_\_\_    POW/MIA \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person submitting photo: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Hometown Hero: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Photo Release Statement:**

I hereby grant the Parkside Borough Hometown Hero Committee permission to use the attached photo (which includes a likeness of me, my relative, or person being sponsored) in the Parkside Hometown Hero Banner Program without payment of other considerations.

Signature

Date

Printed Name (please print clearly)

### **\*\*Era of Service – Official DOD Dates\*\***

|                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Global War on Terrorism | September 11, 2001 – Present         |
| Desert Storm            | January 17, 1991 – February 28, 1991 |
| Persian Gulf            | August 2, 1990 – August 31, 1991     |
| Vietnam                 | February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975      |
| Korean Conflict         | June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955     |
| WWI                     | April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918    |
| WWII                    | December 7, 1941 – December 31 1946  |

**Note:** You may leave "Era of Service" blank, if not applicable. Otherwise, be sure to complete the timeframe served (mm-dd-yy to mm-dd-yy). You did not have to serve during a Conflict in order to qualify.

**Questions:** Questions concerning qualification or application, contact:

Councilman Eric Long at [Elong@parksideborough.com](mailto:Elong@parksideborough.com)

Todd Bennett/Newsletter Editor "The Parksider" at [toddb1441@comcast.net](mailto:toddb1441@comcast.net)