



Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce

Integrity in Business

Metuchen Hosts 90th Annual Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony on May 29

METUCHEN, NEW JERSEY – The **90th Annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony** begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp Monday, May 29, 2017, from New and Pearl Streets in Metuchen with the theme “Honoring Law Enforcement.” A ceremony and concert, featuring Spook Handy and The Seed Planters, will take place in Memorial Park immediately following the parade. Located at the intersection of Lake and Essex Avenues, the park was constructed in 1925-1926 to honor residents who served in World War I. Since that time, the park has been redesigned with new monuments to honor those who have served in more recent wars and conflicts.



Attendees can expect a variety of participants to be featured in the parade, including a Marine Color Guard, groups from the local American Legion Post and Vietnam Veterans Chapter, the Pride of Metuchen High School Marching Band, the Mayor & Council, church groups, scout troops, classic cars, Fred Lehotay & the Ragtimers, The Banjo Rascals, the Metuchen Volunteer Fire Department, and more.

The parade will start at New and Pearl Streets in Metuchen and proceed east towards the reviewing stand at the corner of Main Street and Hillside Avenue. From there, the parade will progress south along Main Street to Spring Street, turn west to the intersection of Rose Street, then northward to end with a



Ceremony and Concert at Memorial Park. "We're delighted that we're able to return to Memorial Park for this year's ceremony. Just as the Park does, this event honors those who have fallen in service to our country, so we worked hard to make the logistics allow us to return here," said Chairperson Jan Margolis.

This year's Grand Marshal is U.S. Navy Veteran E4 Charles Moore. At age 17, Moore enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in active duty around the world from 1958-1962. He was trained in sonar,

and worked to detect signals from potential enemy submarines. Off the coast of Argentina he once identified a Russian submarine which was subsequently forced to surface and be recognized. On one of tour of duty, he was assigned to the ship that opened up the St. Lawrence Seaway, part of the navigational channel from the Atlantic Ocean that opened the Great Lake Region to global markets.

Moore left the Navy after meeting his (then future!) wife of 54 years while on leave, but used his training in his next career as the in electronics with the Bendix Corporation. He eventually attended the Police Academy and served as an officer in Metuchen for 25 years. He retired in 1991, and since then several of his adult children have followed their father's footsteps and are now also serve as police officers.

The 2017 Reviewing Dignitary is Jay Galeota, Honorary Commander, Joint Base Andrews, USAF 113th Operations Group, Air National Guard, and President & COO of G&W Laboratories.

The Parade and Ceremony at the park will include local students who plan to serve in the military upon graduation. Younger students from local schools also participate by entering the extremely popular art contest; in 2016, nearly 1100 students entered. From that number, 50 winners across the various classes are chosen, and the overall winner is featured on the cover of the event program and honored at the ceremony.



The Ceremony at Memorial Park will also include a performance by Spook Handy and The Seed Planters. Handy performed alongside Pete Seeger at festivals and concerts over 50 times from 2003 to 2013. He learned firsthand many of Pete's songs and the stories behind them. Now, Spook is on a three year "Remembering Pete Seeger" World Tour bringing these songs and stories and Pete's message to all 50 U.S states, all 10 Canadian provinces, many other countries and all 21 New Jersey counties. His CD "Pete Woody & Me, Volume I – Keep the Flame Alive" was the No. 12 album of 2016 on the International

Folk Radio Charts. His quadrennially popular song "Vote" charted at No. 2 in November and No. 7 for the year. "Banks of Marble" charted at No. 3 in June. Spook can be heard at theaters, arts centers, libraries, universities, churches and anywhere else people gather to keep alive the tradition Pete made famous of sharing songs as a tool to build and nurture community. His songs have been used in theater and film and he is becoming a well known speaker at festivals and conferences around the country.

This very special 90th Annual Parade and Ceremony is organized by the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce and supported by a wide range of businesses and community groups from the area, including Metuchen Savings Bank, The Criterion News Advertiser, Applied Research Corporation, Victorian Office Rentals, Costello Runyon Funeral Home, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services New Jersey, Keller Williams Elite, Realtors, the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge, & South Amboy, and more.

To register or sponsor the parade, contact the Chamber office at (732) 548-2964 or metuchenchamber@optimum.net by May 22.

Veterans and active duty personnel are encouraged to contact the Chamber so that special arrangements can be made for their participation.



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Images:

- The Pride of Metuchen High School Marching Band on Main Street, Metuchen
- Houses along the route dress up for the Parade
- Sketch by 2016 Overall Art/Poster Contest Winner Tasha Pais
- “Spook Handy & the Seed Planters” Trio (photograph by Gary Blancard)
- Downtown Metuchen during the Memorial Day Parade in the early 1950s (photograph courtesy of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society)
- Veterans in Memorial Park recreate the iconic image of raising the American Flag at Iwo Jima