

**Memorial Service**  
June 12, 2019  
7:00 pm  
**Last Updated June 3, 2019**

Background Music will be played from 6:45-6:58 PM

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

At 6:58 PM State Chaplain makes announcement from Podium with microphone

- We are about to begin the Memorial Service.
- Please silence all electronic devices.
- Guarding our grave site this evening is the Honor Guard from VFW Post 470 in Erie, PA.
- We have three special guests joining us. Past National Commander in Chief Robert E. Wallace. Bob presently serves as Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office. Past National Commander in Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. and his wife Betty Jean, and Jean Hamil from Orlando, Florida. Jean serves as the National Chaplain for the VFW Auxiliary.
- At the conclusion of the program the colors will be retired in place.

[ At 7:00 pm Auditorium lights are dimmed  
Spot lights in front of auditorium and lights on stage remain on ]

**\*\*\* When Audience is seated 7 Chimes will signal the beginning of the Memorial Service\*\*\***

**2. PROCESSIONAL: District Commanders and District Presidents**

Chaplain Hook says: Please remain seated for the procession of District Commanders and District Presidents. Prior to the seating of the District Commanders and Presidents, we are honored to have seating of Gold Star families followed by the seating of our special guests:

1. John A. Biedrzycki, Jr   2. Bette Jean Biedrzycki   3. Robert E. Wallace   4. Jean Hamil

Background Music during Processional

***“Eternal Father Strong to Save”***

**3. ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS:**

**State Color Guard  
Mechanicsburg Minute Men, VFW Post 6704**

Sgt of Arms: Calls assembly to rise and orders the advancement of colors.

**4. INVOCATION:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**Sgt-at-Arms**

Sgt of Arms: Calls assembly to attention, and to present arms.  
Assembly remains at attention until Colors are posted.

**6. NATIONAL ANTHEM:**

**Auxiliary Soloist, Kathe DeCarlo**

**7. POSTING OF THE COLORS:**

**Sgt-at-Arms  
State Color Guard**

*(Following Posting of Colors, Commander Thomas M. Hanzes takes his station at podium and calls the session to order with one rap of the gavel.)*

**Audience is seated**

## **8. OPENING REMARKS**

**Thomas M. Hanzes**

**There are times when mere words seem far from being adequate. This is such an occasion because we are gathered to recall persons who have made the supreme sacrifice -- and to honor their families.**

**The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is founded upon the true comradeship of persons bound by experiences, interests and everlasting patriotism. It is the sort of comradeship that lives through succeeding generations and far back into memory because we know that neither time nor events can separate those who have joined in the common defense of our flag and country.**

**That is the way we feel about the persons who are absent. While they are physically gone, we remember them. They are very close to us. They are a part of our thinking and actions. We feel that they have helped to mold the future of our nation. They give us strong incentive to carry on our crusade for lasting peace and better purposes in life.**

**The highest tribute this organization can render those persons -- the most profound respect all of us can demonstrate -- is to apply to our own lives the strong faith and undaunted courage which were theirs.**

**To the families of those comrades, we pledge the sincere friendship of this organization.**

***(Brief Pause)***

***(Commander, Turn Page)***

**9. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER:**

**Thomas M. Hanzes**

**Comrades, Members of the Auxiliary, and friends, we meet at this time to commemorate our comrades and members who during the past year have answered the Final Call.**

**We also at this time remember those members of the United States Armed Forces who have given the supreme sacrifice, those Missing in Action or Prisoners of War and those serving around the world guarding the gates of freedom.**

**The VFW Ritual provides that the audience shall refrain from applauding. The Sergeant-at-Arms will see that there is no disturbance during the ceremonies.**

**10. DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:**

**Robert I. Hayes**

**Commander, your order will be obeyed.**

**11. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER:**

**Thomas M. Hanzes**

**I request that the Department Chaplain preside.**

**12. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Comrade Commander, I am at your service and shall endeavor to perform this solemn duty with reverence and in the spirit of faith, hope and charity.**

*State Chaplain then takes station of behind podium.*

**13. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**The lighting of the POW/MIA candle and the Armed Forces Vigil candle will be done by the Department Commander **Thomas M. Hanzes** and Department Auxiliary President **Charlotte Lopes**.**

*(The Commander and President will light the two appropriate candles escorted by the Sgt- at-Arms.)*

*(Commander and President return to their seats.*

Background Music during Lighting of Candles  
*“While We Are Waiting, Come”*

**14. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

*(Department Chaplain offers prayer for POW/MIAs and Armed Forces)*

**Prayer**

**15. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**There were three members of Pennsylvania's Armed Forces lost this year in conflicts overseas.**

*(The Commander will read the names and the Sr. Vice Commander will toll the bell.)*

Note: Following the reading of the name, age, home town, and place of service, Sr. Vice should wait 3 seconds and then toll the bell)

# **Pennsylvanians Lost in War**

(June 1, 2018 – June 12, 2019)

<http://www.militarytimes.com/>



## **U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Dylan Elchin**

Age 25, of Hookstown, in Beaver County, Pennsylvania,

Died November 27, 2018

Serving During Operation Freedom's Sentinel

A Special Tactics combat controller with the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, Dylan was killed when his vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan,



## **Army Sgt. Jason Mitchell McClary**

Age 24 from Export, in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Died December 2, 2018

Serving During Operation Freedom's Sentinel  
as a result of injuries sustained from the IED blast  
that occurred in Afghanistan





## **U.S. Marine Sgt. Benjamin S. Hines**

Age 31, of York, Pennsylvania

Sgt. Hines a York, Pennsylvania native and Dallastown Area High School graduate was killed April 8, 2019 in a roadside bombing of an American convoy near the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan

**Another Marine, Staff Sgt. Christopher Slutman, age 43 from Newark, Delaware, whose parents live in the York area, was killed in the same roadside bombing near the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan on April 8, 2019.**

**Christopher Slutman bravely wore two uniforms. He was a New York City Firefighter and a member of the United States Marine Corps.**



**Christopher Slutman**

# Three from Pennsylvania Died While Serving in Non-Combat Incidents

(June 1, 2018 – June 12, 2019)



## **U.S. Navy Ensign Sarah Mitchell**

Age 23 of Feasterville, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania,

Died July 8, 2018

Ensign Mitchell, a 2013 graduate of Neshaminy High School,  
and a 2017 Virginia Tech graduate

served aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham.

She died from injuries following a small-boat training incident  
in the Red Sea.



## **U.S. Army PFC Joshua Mikeasky**

Age 19 from Johnstown, Pennsylvania,

Died December 13, 2018

PFC Mikeasky died at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from a non-combat related incident. Mikeasky was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division from Fort Drum in New York.



## **Major Matthew M. Wiegand**

Age 34 of Ambler, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Major Wiegand, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, was killed in a night flight training accident on March 30, 2019. He and his co-pilot were flying the AH-1Z Viper as part of the seven-week-long Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course.

**16. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Comrade Commander, what message of comfort can you bring as we remember those who have answered the final call?**

**17. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER:**

**Thomas M. Hanzas**

**We can keep their memories bright and strong. We can remember their service to this country, and their service to their fellow comrades, and to their family members.**

**18. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Auxiliary President, how can we maintain hope in the midst of our sadness and loss?**

**19. AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:**

**Charlotte Lopes**

**Every life has a beginning and an end. No matter the time in between, we can be thankful that we had those years together and were able to share our hearts and lives with them.**

**20. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Comrade Senior Vice Commander, what message of condolence do you have for those bereaved?**

**21. SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:**

**Wayne D. Perry**

**Mourning is a natural part of this life. The pain we feel is a reflection of the deep love and friendship we shared.**

**22. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**VFW Auxiliary Senior Vice President, what can we do to make sure these lives are never forgotten?**

**23. AUXILIARY SR. VICE PRESIDENT:**

**Sandra Wilder**

**We can continue to meet as we are now, and to speak of them with fondness and love. We must remember and honor the memory of those we have lost.**

**24. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Comrade Junior Vice Commander, what can we do in our lives today to continue the legacy of service of those gone before us?**

**25. JR. VICE COMMANDER:**

**Ronald J. Peters**

**We can continue to serve our fellow veterans, their families and our communities. We must always honor the dead by helping the living.**

**26. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**VFW Auxiliary Junior Vice President, what hope can you offer to those gathered here as we realize how short life can be?**

**27. AUXILIARY JR. VICE PRESIDENT:**

**Wendi Hennemann**

**Every day holds the opportunity to serve those around us. Our faith, friends and family can be our strength and hope as we travel life's road.**



**28. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**VFW Auxiliary Chaplain, what can we take away from this Memorial Service so that our lives hold meaning once we depart?**

**29. AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN:**

**Pamela Sopher**

**Each of us must extend a hand of friendship to those around us. We must unite in our common goal of serving veterans, their families and the military community. Remembering what brings us together will help keep us united. In this way, we can best honor those comrades, sisters and brothers we have lost.**

**30. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**We are thankful for these inspiring words from each of you. Let us learn the lesson of the hour which is that one day we too will answer the final call and someone will be remembering us.**

**Let us so live so that when our time comes to depart this life, we can do it with a good conscience, in the comfort of our faith or beliefs and in perfect charity toward everyone we meet.**

**31. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Please stand and join with our choir and soloist in the singing of two stanzas of *“Nearer, My God, to Thee”***

**“Nearer, My God, to Thee”**

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee,  
E'en though at times in life, trials crush me!  
Still all my song shall be: nearer, my God, to Thee;  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

Though like the wanderer, daylight all gone,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to Thee;  
Nearer, My God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

Words by Sarah F. Adams, based on Genesis 28:10-23 and Music by Lowell Mason

**Audience is seated**

**32. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**In commemorating the virtues of our departed heroes who served their country in time of need we will offer symbolic tributes.**

**I place upon our sacred shrine these red flowers, which symbolize the zeal of our departed comrades in upholding brotherhood, truth and justice.**

*(Chaplain places flowers escorted by Sgt- at-Arms.)*

**NOTE: Make sure your back is not toward the audience when placing tributes.**

**33. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Comrade Past Commander, what tribute have you to offer?**

**34. IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER:**

**Dwight R. Fuhrman**

**These white flowers I place as a token of the purity of affection we have for our departed comrades.**

*(Past Commander places flowers escorted by Sgt- at-Arms)*

**35. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Comrade Commander, have you a tribute to offer upon this sacred shrine?**

**36. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER:**

**Thomas M. Hanzas**

**The blue of our national standard symbolizes truth and fidelity. Therefore I place these blue flowers from nature's bosom as a token of our sincere respect for all departed comrades.**

*(Commander places flowers escorted by Sgt- at-Arms)*

**37. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Members of the VFW Auxiliary, will you offer a tribute to the memory of our departed comrades?**

**38. AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:**

**Charlotte Lopes**

**I place upon our sacred shrine this wreath as a symbol of eternity. Its color bespeaks life everlasting. Thus do we say that the deeds of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, on land on sea and in the air, are immortalized in the hearts of a grateful people.**

*(President places the wreath escorted by Sgt- at-Arms.)*

**39. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Our Auxiliary Soloist Kathe DeCarlo will now sing “Cherished Names.”**

**40. SOLO:            *“Cherished Names”***

**Auxiliary Soloist, Kathe DeCarlo**

**41. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**(Introduction of Guest Speaker)**

**42. MEMORIAL ADDRESS:**

**National Surgeon, Ruth A. Fairchild**

**43. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Department Commander **Thomas M. Hanzes** and Department Auxiliary President **Charlotte Lopes** will now light the Memorial Flame in honor of our Comrades who have answered the Final Call.**

**They will also be placing a white flower and a poppy in remembrance of our deceased Comrades as the roll is called.**

*(Commander Hanzes and President Lopes proceed to light Candle. They stay near the Memorial Flame table and return to their seats following the calling of the roll.)*

Background Music during Lighting of Candles

*“While We Are Waiting, Come”*

**44. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**I now call upon Department Adjutant **John B. Getz, Jr.**, and Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer **Jodie L. Hollinger** to call the roll of VFW and Auxiliary Members who have passed from us during this past year.**

**District Commanders and District Presidents will proceed to their positions and place their tributes, as the roll is called.**

*Chaplain Hook moves to position near the American Flag (with bell)*

*Chaplain Hook rings bell and salutes as Commanders and Presidents salute.*

*Commander Hanzes and President Lopes (standing near the POW/MIA table) present flowers and poppies and salute as Commanders and Presidents salute.*

45. **BAG PIPE DUO:** *“Amazing Grace”* Jim Phelps and Tom Kelinosky

46. **DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:** Rev. Peter R. Hook

**Past District 29 Commander and present commander of the Military order of the Cooties, Henry Mannella will now perform the Field Cross Ceremony**

**(The Procedure)**

- Comrade Mannella proceeds towards the front, stops, and salutes Chaplain Hook with rifle.
- Chaplain Hook responds with a slow salute
- Comrade Mannella then proceeds to perform the Field Cross Ceremony

47. **FIELD CROSS SERVICE:** Henry Mannella

**At the conclusion of the Field Cross Service Henry stands silently. He will stay there, and Chaplain Hook will read the following:**

- The helmet and identification tags signify the fallen soldier, whose name will never be forgotten.
- The inverted rifle with bayonet signals a break in the action to pay tribute to our comrade.
- The combat boots, worn and dirty, represents the final march of the soldier’s last battle.

**Then, Henry salutes and departs.**

**(The Field Cross Service is not completed until the Henry Mannella has departed)**



**48. CALL TO ATTENTION:**

**Sgt-at-Arms, Robert I. Hayes**

*(Following the Field Cross service and when Henry has departed)*

**Please Rise, Attention, Present Arms, Comrade Bugler.**

**49. TAPS:**

**Jerry Dunn**

**Following Taps, Sgt at Arms will say: Order Arms.**

**50. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Please remain standing for the Benediction offered by Department Auxiliary Chaplain **Pamela Sopher.****

**51. AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN:**

**Pamela Sopher**

**Almighty God, as we conclude our annual memorial service, we are reminded that You, O Lord, are God, Creator, and the giver of Life. You have blessed all present here today with life and we are grateful for each day we have been given.**

**As we have remembered and honored those who once sat with us, we give thanks for the time we had with them and for their commitment and service to preserve liberty and freedom in our own land and in the world. The fallen, whether in the air, on the land, or on the sea, have provided for all that which we appreciate today.**

**May we continue to remember our comrades with grateful hearts, full of thanksgiving to You for Your grace and mercy to them.**

**52. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

**Please remain standing and join me in the singing of “America”**

My country, 'tis of Thee,  
Sweet Land of liberty  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountain side  
Let Freedom ring

Our fathers' God to Thee,  
Author of Liberty  
To thee we sing,  
Long may our land be bright  
With Freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by thy might  
Great God, our King.

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1832 Music: From Thesaurus Musicus, London, 1744

**53. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN:**

**Rev. Peter R. Hook**

- **The Colors will be retired in place**
- **The Gold Star Families and our special guests will be escorted to the back of the auditorium where you will be able to greet them.**
- **This concludes our service.**

**54. POSTLUDE:**

***“Battle Hymn of the Republic”***

***Auxiliary Musician, Carolyn R. Hook***