



Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association

State Headquarters

5200 Brightwood Road, Suite 201, Bethel Park, PA 15102
Phone: 412-833-4100 Fax: 412-833-7060
Email: pamayors@pamayors.org Website: www.pamayors.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jim. Nowalk
Whitehall

VICE PRESIDENTS

Northeast Region

Alexander J. Chelik
Mayfield

North Central Region

Joe McGranahan
Shamokin Dam

Northwest Region

Tom Riel
Bradford

Southeast Region

Ralph Mowen
Ephrata

South Central Region

Ron Harris
Carroll Valley

Southwest Region

Donald Baumgarten
Castle Shannon

SECRETARY

Jan Cmar
Jefferson Hills

TREASURER

Richard Moriarty
Millersville

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Burgess
Wyalusing
Allen Clark
Conneautville
Scot Funk
Manheim
Gerald Lucia
Mt. Pleasant
Ina Jean Marton
White Oak
Anthony Mastrangelo
New Castle
William Molchany Jr.
North Catasauqua
Keith Moss
Duryea
Dennis E. O'Keefe
Franklin Park
Richard Starliper
Waynesboro
Donald Wachter
Big Beaver
Thomas Wilson
Bellefonte

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reno Virgili

SOLICITOR

CGA Law Firm
Jeff L. Rehmeyer II

NEWS RELEASE

Bells Across Pennsylvania Day

The Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association has initiated an event entitled "Bells Across Pennsylvania Day." This statewide event will take place on **May 3, 2020**. Its threefold purpose is:

- To recognize and honor first responders, healthcare workers, and employees of grocery stores, pharmacies and other life-sustaining businesses who have maintained essential services to the general public while at risk of infection from COVID-19, and deserve to be celebrated as "hometown heroes";
- To show solidarity with elected officials and residents of municipalities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all of whom are fighting COVID-19 on the frontlines together in their communities; and
- To demonstrate a collective resolve that Pennsylvanians will prevail over COVID-19 and work tirelessly to ensure that their businesses and civic life will thrive once again.

Mayors and other municipal officials are being encouraged to hold whatever events "sheltering in place" will allow such as encouraging their residents to do something special for someone in their neighborhood who is a "hometown hero" for example a telephone call, a note of support, delivery of baked goods, etc. Then at **7:00 p.m.**, all *Pennsylvanians* and houses of worship will be encouraged to ring bells for three minutes – one minute for each of the above purposes. Attached is an example of a Proclamation which Mayors and other elected officials will issue to invite their residents to participate in this event.

Questions regarding "Bells Across Pennsylvania Day" may be directed to Mayor Jim Nowalk, President of the Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association at (412) 508-6873 or pamayors@pamayors.org.

A PROCLAMATION

BELLS ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA DAY MAY 3, 2020

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately requiring all Pennsylvania residents to shelter in place; and

Whereas, despite all of the efforts of state, county, and municipal governments to mitigate the effects of this pandemic, to date, over 37,053 Pennsylvanians have been afflicted with COVID-19 and 1,394 Pennsylvanians have died from it; and

Whereas, in every municipality, there have been emergency medical personnel, firefighters, police officers, and employees of grocery stores, pharmacies and other life-sustaining businesses who have braved the viral elements, at the expense of themselves and their families, to maintain essential services to the general public sheltering in place and are deserving of recognition as “hometown heroes”; and

Whereas, elected officials across the Commonwealth have joined together to promote a statewide expression of *gratitude* to these hometown heroes, *solidarity* with other Pennsylvanians on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battlefield and *determination* that their municipal businesses and civic-life will thrive once again; and

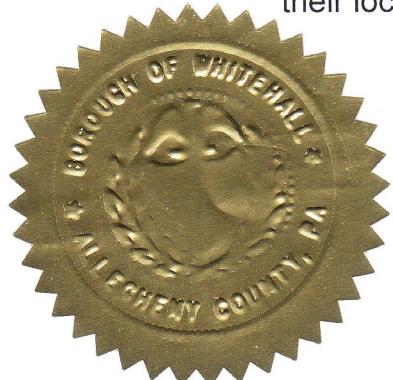
Whereas, since days of the American Revolution, the bell has served as an instrument for expressing communal gratitude, camaraderie and resolve, and is a means well-suited for Pennsylvanians sheltering in place to demonstrate such values.

Now, therefore, the Mayor, in concert with the Council of the Borough of Whitehall, hereby proclaims:

Sunday, May 3, 2020 as

Bells Across Pennsylvania Day

and calls upon all residents and churches at 7:00 p.m. to ring bells for three minutes to honor their hometown heroes, rally with other Pennsylvanians on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battlefield and show resolve to restore their local businesses and civic life to their former prominence.



James F. Nowalk

James F. Nowalk, Mayor
Borough of Whitehall