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- ★ Wissahickon Fire Company
- ★ Wissahickon Middle School Marching Band
- ★ Zeo Brothers



Ceremony Schedule

10:45	"Gathering In" of guests	<i>This is My Country</i> played by the Wissahickon Middle School Marching Band
11:00	Presentation of the Colors	"Daniel W. Dowling" American Legion Post 769
11:00	Welcome	CPT Dick Target, US Marine Corps
	Pledge of Allegiance <i>(Star Spangled Banner*)</i>	Wissahickon Middle School Marching Band
	Introduction of Distinguished Guests	
	Introduction of Public Officials	PA State Representatives Montgomery County Commissioners Lower Gwynedd Township Supervisors President, Gwynedd Mercy University
	Theme Presentation	Rear Admiral (R) Stephen Yusem, US Navy
11:10	1st Guest Speaker <i>(Music: America the Beautiful)</i>	PFC Warren Fisher, US Army Wissahickon Middle School Band
11:20	2nd Guest Speaker	COL Beverly Plosa-Bowser, US Air Force
11:30	3rd Guest Speaker <i>(Music: This Land is Your Land)</i>	Cdr Arno Vorwerk, US Navy Bethlehem Baptist Church Men's Choir
11:40	4th Guest Speaker	MSG Sharon Cooke-Vargas, US Army
11:50	5th Guest Speaker <i>(Music: My Country Tis of Thee)</i>	3rd Class Petty Officer Anibal Valentin, US Marine Corps
	Closing Remarks	CPT Dick Target, US Marine Corps
Noon - 1:00	Retiring of the Colors	"Daniel W. Dowling" American Legion Post 769
	Taste of Lower Gwynedd	Area Restaurants Veterans Park Lower Gwynedd Township

Guest Speakers



Rear Admiral (R) Stephen Yusem, US Navy

Rear Admiral (R) Stephen Yusem is a veteran of 40 years of Navy Reserve service as a Surface Warfare officer with collateral duties in Coastal Warfare and Special Warfare. Rear Admiral (R) Yusem served in the Western Pacific and as a flag officer was Deputy Commander, Combat Logistics Group Two, Deputy Commander Maritime Defense Zone Atlantic and Commander, Logistics Task Force Atlantic.

Cdr Arno Vorwerk, US Navy

A Philadelphia native, he currently resides in Warminster. His nearly 38-year Navy career spanned from December, 1972 when he enlisted as a Seaman Recruit (E1) until he retired in September, 2010 at the rank of Commander (O5). His assignments included numerous voluntary recalls to active duty and 3 tours of duty in Baghdad, Iraq. He recently retired from both the Navy and Allstate Insurance Company, and is currently enrolled as an undergraduate student at Gwynedd Mercy University, majoring in Criminal Justice. He is also a graduate of Temple University.



PFC Warren Fisher, US Army

As a 19-year old, was in the 28th (PA) Infantry Division in the Huerfgen Forest and Battle of the Bulge campaigns, September, 1944 to January, 1945. Right afterwards, he fought in the Colmar Gap, in Alsace, the last remaining German-occupied part of France. His Division was awarded the "Crois de Guerre" (Medal of Honor) by Gen. Charles De Gaulle. Recently, Warren was personally presented with an individual Legion of Honor medal in a ceremony, at Foulkeways, presided over by Pa Rep. Kate Harper.



MSG Sharon Cooke-Vargas, US Army

An Ambler, PA native, she graduated from Wissahickon High School in 1971. After graduating, Sharon enlisted in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1992 at the rank of Master Sergeant/E-8. She earned many awards and certificates of achievement during her military career, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Army Achievement Medal. After retiring from the Army, Sharon earned her Bachelor's degree from Philadelphia's University of the Arts. She is an active member of Daniel D. Dowling Ambler Legion Post #769, and an advocate for veterans searching for employment.



COL Beverly Plosa-Bowser, US Air Force

After being appointed at the age of 17 to the U.S. Air Force Academy, in the first year that women were admitted, she served in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve for over 30 years, during which she attained the rank of Colonel. She served in Baghdad negotiating and building a Security Cooperation relationship with senior Iraqi officials, and also in a number of positions, including munitions/logistics officer, faculty member at the Army and Air War Colleges and Launch Decision Authority at Cape Canaveral. She received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Penn State in 1998, and then a Master's in Political Management from George Washington University in 2012.



3rd Class Petty Officer Anibal Valentin, US Marine Corps

A Philadelphia, PA native, he joined the Navy in 2008, chasing a dream to become a SEAL. He graduated from the Marine Corps Basic Reconnaissance Course in 2010; and was deployed in 2012 with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of U.S. Central Command/Africa Command operations throughout North Eastern Africa and the Middle East in 2012. He was honorably discharged in 2014; and is currently enrolled at Montgomery County Community College, majoring in Health and Fitness.



CPT Dick Target, US Marine Corps

CPT Dick Target served as a junior officer in the US Marine Corps with the 3rd Marines in Vietnam from 1968 - 1970. CPT Target's Unit was involved in many different aspects of the Vietnam Conflict, including rescuing American and Canadian Pilots in North Vietnam prisoner of war camps.

