

# The *Gettysburg* Companion

*Passionate  
Local Artists  
Prepare for  
Annual  
Studio Tour*

**Once Upon a  
Gettysburg Times  
Wedding Show**

**Church Bells a  
Reminder of  
Spiritual Heritage**



**Gettysburg Funeral  
Parlor Balances  
Traditional with Nature**

**Local veteran-owned  
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*Complimentary  
Nov/Dec 2022*



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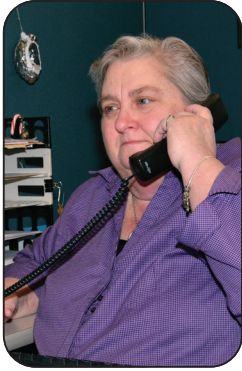


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# A Note from the Editor



**D.K. THOMAS**

This issue of Companion magazine brings together a wonderful collection of articles on diverse topics.

Just in time for Veterans Day, there is the story of people who served

their country, and now provide an array of exemplary services to the public through their veteran-owned businesses.

With the end-of-year holidays just around the corner, church bells will herald the season, their toll sometimes calling people to a spiritual home. Check out Rocco's story about local bells.

As the new year dawns, so does the Once Upon a Gettysburg Times Wedding Show, January 29 at the Hickory Bridge Farm Red Shed.

Rounding out the fare are articles about a funeral parlor providing new and different options for the dearly departed, the tale of a local athlete turned professional baseball player with the Blue Jays, as well as the Foothill Artists annual tour.

Blessings of the season for a glorious new year,

D.K. Thomas  
Editor



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United Way of Adams County

*16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
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Save the Date:  
**Thursday, March 2, 2023**  
**Wyndham Hotel Gettysburg**

*More details  
coming soon!*



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*Passionate  
Local Artists  
Prepare for  
Annual  
Studio Tour*

STORY BY ROCCO CASAZZA • PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEOFFREY THULIN

**S**cattered across the Fairfield Valley area are several separate workrooms, brimming with inspiration. Within these rooms, artists utilize their talents to form a cooperative of one-of-a-kind creations. Media such as paintings, pottery, photography, printmaking, woodworking, and jewelry are well represented by artists who participate in the Foothill Artists Studio Tour.

One common denominator of the broad range of artwork throughout the tour is an emphasis on inspiration derived from nature. The expanse of influence appropriately reflects the beauty of the surrounding area.

An abundance of farmland, streams, and hills define the area providing the local artists with a cornucopia of inspiration. Their creations are much like the natural resources in the valley. The aggregate of creative ideas grows, much like the fruit in the area's orchards, yet yielding a different kind of harvest.

Formed 15 years ago, the group originally displayed and sold their work at the Willow Pond Lavender Festival before branching out into the event now known as the Foothill Artists Studio Tour. The 15th annual Foothill Artists Tour will take place Nov. 19-20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Each year, the group hosts a self-guided tour in which patrons travel to different studios to enjoy the variety of artworks, and also have an opportunity to purchase select pieces. Different from a standard art show held at a gallery, the Foothill Artists Studio Tour allows attendees to visit the intimate world of creative expression.

"It's important for people to know it's quite a rare thing for most artists to invite people in to see the studio. It's more a personal space," said potter **Jack Handshaw**.

Handshaw has been part of the tour since the beginning; he even coined the name back in 2007. He has been making pottery since junior high but after joining the army in 1974, his passion was fully realized. During his service, he was assigned to the craft shop at one posting, and was able to hone his art.

"I did work with well-known potters. I didn't have the college education but

took classes for years," Handshaw said.

Although he has ample experience working with all types of clay, his interest in Japanese raku, is particularly unique. The chemical process achieved via his hand-built brick reduction kiln removes oxygen from the firing process. He then quickly removes the piece from the kiln with tongs and places it in a composite bed, causing a combustible ignition. The vessels become smoky and iridescent.

His piece, "Metamorphosis," represents his panache in the artform. The raku vase suggests the form of a chrysalis, with visible layering that opens. Its copper body is spontaneous, a highlight of the reduction kiln's results.

"It's like a controlled surprise," Handshaw said of the process.

**Geoffrey Thulin** has been active in the tour for around seven years. His bold watercolor and gouache paintings communicate a heightened liveliness of outdoor settings. The passion for his work is creatively spoken through an unorthodox color palette. His vision of landscapes and animals in vibrant, or sometimes neon shades, sets his work apart from typical portrayals. Creating implied motion from his natural backgrounds produces a dynamic interpretation of being submersed by nature.

"I tend to think of my work in terms of energy and motion. I aim to capture energy with color," said Thulin, who admits that working with watercolors can be challenging, but a motivating factor for his paintings.

At Windborne Farm Studio, **Ann Ruppert** captures the natural world both organically and abstractly, demonstrating a well-rounded arsenal of artistic talents. Her oil paint and pastel landscapes denote a sense of realism, while her encaustic creations deliver abstract interpretations of natural phenomena such as tidal waves.


Ruppert also makes one-of-a-kind jewelry using a variety of materials such as copper, enamels, polymer clay, and silver, among others. Her jewelry evokes artisan sensibilities, hand-assembled and centered around insects, leaves, and other abundant nature walk encounters

**Anne Finucane** has mastered making prints via linocut. Most of her farmland prints use watercolors in the negative space to achieve appealing contrast with the thick black outline. There is uniformity to the etch strokes and their portrayal of crops, shrubs, and trees, evoking a soothing familiarity with the subject matter but also a meditation of directional design.

Photographer **Geoff Grant** has traveled around the globe to capture natural landscapes. He does little editing to his raw photos, instead focusing on emphasizing the mood of his scenery. Grant describes much of his work as "painterly landscapes," often sprawling wide shots that forego the over-saturation prevalent in today's Instagram culture. Instead, he prefers a muted look, where color subtly defines the totality of the setting via natural light. He emphasizes a deep passion of shooting in black-and-white.

"I enjoy black-and-white photography, the power of essential elements like natural lines and light in an image. The eye is more drawn

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



**The Christmas Haus**  
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to those elements by removing color, which can sometimes be distracting,” Grant explained.

Additionally, Grant relishes snapping candid portraits. His portfolio includes striking photos of the foreign residents from his travels, capturing a moment of time.

**Rob Stabler** is a retired cabinetmaker; he maintains his professional heritage by continuing to produce practical furniture. He cuts, shapes, sands, and stains an assortment of chairs, tables, benches, foot stils and bowls that are designed for everyday use. Stabler has a deep appreciation for the raw material he crafts, finding the character in each piece of wood he comes across. Because of this mentality, he maintains an artisanal spirit to building common household items.

Several guest artists are participating in the tour this year, including **Heidi Myers**. Handshaw recommended her after learning and observing some of his techniques. Myers works in a converted barn named Haywire Studio on her 115-acre property complete with a wood stove and electric kiln. Her love of working with clay does not discriminate by type.

“Clay really suited the bill for me. The possibilities are endless.”

Although she still works long days as an MRI tech, Myers now devotes more time to her creations. Many of her sculptures communicate a playful appreciation of animals.

“I’d like to get involved more with the local art community and getting to know its artists. I’ve met the nicest people so far. I try to be a sponge,” said

Myers.

**Debbie Westmoreland** creates intricate wall hangings, and scarves with a variety of fabrics. She learned to sew at a young age, taught by her family’s matriarchs. By eight years old, she was making her own Barbie clothing.

Westmoreland’s considers silk her canvas. By punching through with a variety of fibers, everything from wool to yak fur, she transforms her base materials into a free form tapestry of textured motion. Additionally, beads, embroidery, lace and other specialty fabrics are added for a different textural dimension.

She has built a collection of antique and rare fabrics. The final product finds great harmony in modern abstractions with the timelessness of artisan fiber weaving.

“Once you start working on your art, you lose all track of time,” Westmoreland said.

**Jóh Ricci** produces fiber art, albeit in a much different way. Her weavings, wall hangings and sculptures evoke a sense of playful modernism. Quite literally, her work pushes outside the boundaries of the craft. Her piece, ‘Seafoam Weave Number 23,’ uses soft colors in an interwoven linear array. The interior braids spill outside the baby blue colored frame into stout knots. Her cheerful fiber sculptures sometimes take on atypical forms, infused with colorful energy.

Ricci also works with oil paints. Her paintings appear inspired by 19th century impressionism, short brush strokes often depicting the fluidity of

light in the sky. Additionally, she crafts traditional weavings and wearables, such as bracelets, necklaces and scarves.

**Judy Pyle** assembles stimulating jewelry and thought-provoking enamel-based sculptures. She most frequently designs earrings, pendants, and brooches when she creates jewelry. Silver, enamel, copper, and clay are among her favorite base materials, sometimes with an application of patina to add another layer of complexity.

Pyle’s enamel sculptures are modest in size, emphasizing her skill in crafting. She has made several expressing her support of Ukraine, thoughtfully naming them after the invaded nation. Some of her sculpting results are so conceptual they are difficult to put in words. Simply put, you have to see them in person to garner the full effect of her visionary expressions.

Out in Carroll Valley, **Daryl Despres** is another guest artist on this year’s tour. Despres is a woodworking wizard, turning locally sourced and reclaimed wood into a variety of boxes and wood carvings with a chainsaw, band saw, and scroll saw. His scenic woodwork has an identifiable style, notably the juxtaposition of pale and dark wood. The varied tones of different types of wood, walnut, cherry, cypress, block, and African wenge, provide an appealing contrast.

“I did find my niche, especially my Tree of Life series. You have to fine-tune things and learn from previous mistakes. You need to be a craftsman, but your art becomes your personal expression,” said Despres.

The Foothill Artists are looking forward to their interaction with guests. Most, if not all, revel in talking about the inspiration of the work, and answering any questions about the totality of their process.

Patrons will have the opportunity to own some of the pieces, to enliven or enrich their own domiciles.

“It’s a wonderful group. No matter their aesthetics, people are going to see something they love,” said Myers. 📷





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# LIVING THE MAJOR LEAGUE

STORY BY TOM SIXEAS • PHOTOS COURTESY OF TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Casey Lawrence faced long odds in pursuing his dream of being a major league baseball player, but nothing deterred him in that pursuit.

An undrafted free agent following his graduation from Albright College in 2010, Lawrence signed with the Toronto Blue Jays. But instead of the \$500 signing bonus the team offered him, he requested a plane ticket to fly to Florida so he could report to the team's minor league facility in Dunedin.

He slowly climbed the ladder through the Blue Jay organization but appeared stalled out in Double A ball for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, of the Eastern League. He spent all of 2014, nearly all of 2015 and half of 2016 at that level. He seemed destined to be another player that was good, but not good enough to make it to the major leagues.

That's when he had a discussion with Fisher Cats' pitching coach Vince Horsman and things took a turn in the right direction for Lawrence. Horsman,

a former major league pitcher with three organizations from 1991 to 1995, had Lawrence make some adjustments and that made a big difference.

"Vince tweaked my delivery a little bit and it really helped to give me a jump in my velocity," said Lawrence, a Delone Catholic High School graduate. "I went from sitting 88 (MPH) and touching 90 to sitting 91-92 and touching 93-94."

Lawrence got his first call-up to the Jays in April 2017 and after making a pair of relief appearances, he was



Kole Calhoun out.”

After another start, Lawrence was claimed on waivers by the Seattle Mariners and sent down to Triple A. He did spend the final two months of the season back in the majors.

Lawrence made the Mariners’ Opening Day roster in 2018 but following a season that saw him split time between the Mariners and their Triple A affiliate in Tacoma, he decided to sign with a team in Japan and played for the Hiroshima Carp in 2019.

“When I went to Japan, I was looking to make some guaranteed money because I’d never done that before. Being a non-drafted guy, I was trying to set my family up better for the future,” he said. “It’s definitely different being in Japan and not in a good or bad way. The game is just different than it is here. The cultural aspect was great, and our family was accepted immediately. It was a really enjoyable experience living there.”

Lawrence lives in Hanover in the offseason with his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Haven.

Despite enjoying his time in Japan, Lawrence was ready to continue the pursuit of his goals back in the United States and signed with the Minnesota Twins in 2020. However, the COVID-19

pandemic kept the minor league season from being played that year and he was relegated to being at the Twins’ Alternate Training Site to stay in shape for a call to the majors that may or may not come. It didn’t.

Lawrence went back to the Blue Jays for the 2021 season and stayed in the minors all year and then returned again in 2022.

He was called up five times this past season, posting an 0-1 record with a 7.50 ERA in 18 innings spread over six appearances with the parent club.

His 2022 campaign with the Triple A Buffalo Bisons was a very good one as he went 9-5 with a 2.79 ERA and 106 strikeouts against 17 walks in 126 innings. His ERA was the lowest in the International League of any pitcher that threw more than 125 innings this season. His 0.89 WHIP was also the best in the circuit.

“I feel like I’m continuing to get better and that’s due to the strength and conditioning programs that are all around sports now,” he said. “It’s about making small adjustments at this point. You may add a pitch or stop throwing a pitch, but nothing major. I’m planning to go for as long as I can.”

Lawrence, who turned 35 years old in October, is seven years older than the average player in the IL, and he’s the oldest player on the Bisons.

“I’m at the point now where I take pride in helping guys that are on their way up,” he said. “I want to pass things along like (former MLB All-Stars) Mark Buehrle and Jason Grilli did with me. Things as simple as how to be a pro.”

In his 13 seasons as a professional, Lawrence has a cumulative 93-81 record with a 3.92 ERA in 1,435 innings.

Growing up, Lawrence played one season of American Legion baseball, following his freshman year of high school, but decided he’d rather play in the South Penn League and did so for the Brushtown Bulldogs from 2004 to 2008. He helped the Bulldogs capture four straight SPL titles.

“I owe a lot to the South Penn League. I got to play with veterans like my high school coach, Alan Felix and Tommy Hartlaub,” he said. “It gave me a chance to play against men in a wooden bat league and it was a challenge to get those guys out. It was a big learning experience for me.”

A three-sport athlete when he was a student at Delone Catholic, Lawrence represented the Squires in golf and basketball, in addition to baseball, before graduating in 2006.

He credits his mother and father, Sharon and Wayne, along with his uncle, Dave, with helping him become the person and baseball player he is today.

handed the ball to start the game on April 22 against the Los Angeles Angels, a team that featured two future Hall of Famers in Mike Trout and Albert Pujols.

“You’re facing guys that you’d watched on TV, and it was hard to separate myself from being a fan and looking up to these guys to being a player, being a peer of theirs and competing against them,” he said. “It took a while to get over that. You go from watching them to game-planning on how to get Mike Trout, Albert Pujols, Justin Upton and



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9**  
 “I’ve always had a great support system and I know that I’ve given it my all to be the best that I can be,” Lawrence said. “My dad coached me from pee-wee and T-Ball. He’d come home from work and we’d work on the game. He still catches me in the offseason and my mom caught me some when I was growing up. Uncle Dave was my pitching coach up through high school and he taught me a lot about pitching.”



Even though he doesn’t know how much longer his playing career is going to last, he’s planning to stay in the game, in some capacity, after he hangs up his spikes.

“Baseball has grown to be a part of who I am as a person and it’s what I love to do,” Lawrence said. “I’ve been approached a few times about becoming part of an organization when I retire as a player. Whether it’s in player development, coaching, working in a front office or scouting. 📌



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# Church Bells a Reminder of Spiritual Heritage

STORY BY ROCCO CASAZZA • PHOTOS BY DARRYL WHEELER/GETTYSBURG TIMES

In the Adams County area, many churches faithfully continue the historic traditions of their spiritual ancestors. Few things are as soulful as the tintinnabulation of churches' bells.

For over 120 years, **The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church** in McSherrystown has used its bell to call believers for worship. In 1890, Rev. T.W. Hayes placed an order with McShane Bell Foundry for a 1,000-pound bronze bell for the then-budding Catholic congregation. After the Civil War, more families moved to the area as the cigar industry began to grow. With the burgeoning population, more communal worship space was required. The original church was deemed too small and the locale too close to downtown. Subsequently, the Jesuits transferred ownership of the old site, and broke ground at their current location on Third Street, taking the pealing beacon with them.

The McSherrystown church is a beautiful, commanding structure,



The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, McSherrystown

no matter how much has been built up around it since its own cornerstone was laid. The 118-foot stone bell tower is topped with a cross, surrounded by four pinnacles. These adornments evoke remnants of European Gothic architecture.

"Bells are an aspect of beauty, the sound itself is beautiful. We use bells as a way of calling people to holiness. Hearing that chime helps me to stay grounded to the fact that I'm home. Ultimately, I think this is how Catholics see the church. The church is our true home," said Father Richard Lyons.

Around the holiday season, churches typically see higher attendance. Displaced family members return home to spend time celebrating the holidays. Those who don't regularly attend church come back and are welcomed by the familiar sights and sounds of Christmas Mass.

"Christmas is about the birth of Christ but it's also about the family because it's about the establishment of the holy family. Christmas Mass tends to be much more heavily attended. I think it does resonate that the bells would have that homecoming aspect to them," said Father Lyons.

Located in Biglerville, **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church** uses a different type of bell tower to call its flock home. St. Paul's tower contains three bells of different sizes which ring separately, as well as in unison.

St. Paul's Memorial Tower stands on the church's front lawn. The oldest of the trio, a 500-pound bell cast in 1883, was moved from the church's former West York Street structure, which was built in 1881, to the current Franklin Street location in April 1965, when the

"new" church was constructed. Traditionally called a domina, this bell tolls seven times every Friday to commemorate the crucifixion of Christ. In 1984, the two accompanying memorial bells were added. The smallest is the prayer bell, also known as the 'Our Father' bell. It chimes everyday at 6 p.m.

"For me, when the bells ring on Sunday, it is welcoming everyone to attend church and thanking God He has me on his list to wake me up to enjoy another day," said St. Paul secretary and member Pam Wagner.

Church bells at St. Paul, like other denominations, are used to signify celebrations or canonical hours. On Sundays, the smallest bell rings a half hour before service; 15 minutes before services begins, both the



St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Biglerville

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# Nov/Dec EVENT CALENDAR

## Fields, Farms & Festivals



**NOVEMBER 4**  
Flashlight Friday Nights in the Corn Maze  
[fieldsofadventure.com](http://fieldsofadventure.com)

**NOVEMBER 4**  
4-H Benefit Auction  
[adamsext@psu.edu](mailto:adamsext@psu.edu)

**NOVEMBER 11-12**  
Trinity UCC Fall Festival  
[gettysburgtrinityucc.org](http://gettysburgtrinityucc.org)

**NOVEMBER 12**  
Family Cooking Class: Breakfast Pizza  
[hollabaughbros.com](http://hollabaughbros.com)

**NOVEMBER 12**  
Holiday Fest  
The Marketplace at Gettysburg  
[marketplacegettysburg.com](http://marketplacegettysburg.com)

**DECEMBER 2**  
13th Annual Gingerbread Celebration and Holiday Mart  
[adamssarts.org](http://adamssarts.org)

**DECEMBER 2-3**  
Holiday Open House at Hollabaugh's  
[hollabaughbros.com](http://hollabaughbros.com)

**DECEMBER 10**  
Gettysburg High School  
Holiday Market  
[gettysburg.k12.pa.us](http://gettysburg.k12.pa.us)

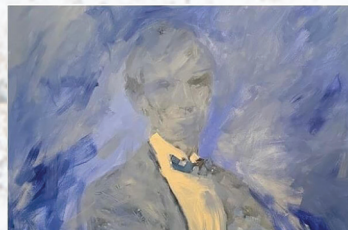
**DECEMBER 13**  
Kids Event: It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas  
[hollabaughbros.com](http://hollabaughbros.com)

## Arts, Antiques & Entertainment

**NOVEMBER 1**  
"Emanations" by Wendy Allen  
Art Exhibit of Lincoln Portraits  
[gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org)  
(use photo here too)

**NOVEMBER 4**  
"Variable Palettes" now through December 31  
[adamscountywinery.com](http://adamscountywinery.com)

**NOVEMBER 4**  
Sunderman Conservatory of Music  
EnVaGe Chamber Concert  
[gettysburg.edu](http://gettysburg.edu)



**NOVEMBER 5**  
La Traviata The Met Live  
[majestic.org](http://majestic.org)

**NOVEMBER 11**  
HONK! JR Penguin Project  
[gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org](http://gettysburgcommunitytheatre.org)

**NOVEMBER 12**  
St Francis Xavier Holiday Bazaar  
[ritat43@gmail.com](mailto:ritat43@gmail.com)

**NOVEMBER 14**  
National Theatre Live:  
Jack Absolute Flies Again  
[majestic.org](http://majestic.org)

**NOVEMBER 15**  
Barclay Brass  
Gettysburg Community Concert  
[gettysburgcca.org](http://gettysburgcca.org)

**NOVEMBER 18**  
Sunderman Conservatory of Music  
Wind Symphony  
[gettysburg.edu](http://gettysburg.edu)

**NOVEMBER 20**  
Sunderman Conservatory of Music  
Bryn Werley, Flute  
[gettysburg.edu](http://gettysburg.edu)

**NOVEMBER 21**  
Soweto Gospel Choir  
[gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org)

**NOVEMBER 22**  
Country Christmas Lunch & Show  
[hickorybridgefarm.com](http://hickorybridgefarm.com)

**NOVEMBER 25**  
Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony  
[gettysburgretailmerchants.com](http://gettysburgretailmerchants.com)

**NOVEMBER 26**  
An Evening With The Painting  
[gettysburgfoundation.org](http://gettysburgfoundation.org)

**NOVEMBER 27**  
Advent Choral Vespers  
[musicgettysburg.org](http://musicgettysburg.org)

**DECEMBER 2**  
Gettysburg Choral Society  
Christmas Concert  
[gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://gettysburgchoralsociety.org)

**DECEMBER 2**  
Sunderman Conservatory of Music  
Symphony Orchestra  
[gettysburg.edu](http://gettysburg.edu)

**DECEMBER 3**  
Sunderman Conservatory of Music  
Winter Choral Concert  
[gettysburg.edu](http://gettysburg.edu)



**DECEMBER 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18**  
A Christmas Carol  
[gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org)

**DECEMBER 9**  
Gettysburg Tuba Carol Fest  
[gettysburgbrassbandfestival.com](http://gettysburgbrassbandfestival.com)

**DECEMBER 9**  
Chill on the Hill  
[hauserhill.com](http://hauserhill.com)

**DECEMBER 10**  
The Met Live: The Hours  
[gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org)

**DECEMBER 18**  
A Christmas Offering  
[musicgettysburg.org](http://musicgettysburg.org)

**DECEMBER 27 & 28**  
Country Christmas Lunch & Show  
[hickorybridgefarm.com](http://hickorybridgefarm.com)

## Civil War

**NOVEMBER 18**  
Gettysburg Foundation Gala  
[gettysburgfoundation.org](http://gettysburgfoundation.org)

**NOVEMBER 18 & 19**  
Reenactor Swap Meet & Yard Sale  
[danielladyfarm.com](http://danielladyfarm.com)

**NOVEMBER 19**  
Dedication Day-Anniversary of the  
Gettysburg Address  
[lincolnfellowship.wildapricot.org](http://lincolnfellowship.wildapricot.org)

**NOVEMBER 19**  
Remembrance Day  
Parade & Ceremonies  
[asuvcw.org](http://asuvcw.org)



**NOVEMBER 19**  
Songs & Stories of a Civil War Hospital  
[christgettysburg.org](http://christgettysburg.org)

**NOVEMBER 19**  
National Civil War Ball of  
Remembrance Day  
[gatewaygettysburg.com](http://gatewaygettysburg.com)

**NOVEMBER 20**  
The First Day at Gettysburg with Tim

Smith and special guests  
[achs-pa.org](http://achs-pa.org)

**NOVEMBER 25**  
Five Christmases at the Shriver House  
[shriverhouse.org](http://shriverhouse.org)

**DECEMBER 2, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18**  
Scary Ghost Stories &  
Tales of the Glories  
[gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com](http://gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com)

**DECEMBER 3 & 10**  
Daniel Lady Farm Candle Light Tours  
[danielladyfarm.com](http://danielladyfarm.com)

## Try Something Different



**NOVEMBER 3**  
Adams County Community  
Foundation  
[ACCFGivingSpree.org](http://ACCFGivingSpree.org)

**NOVEMBER 3 & 17**  
Trivia Night  
Thirsty Farmer Brew Works  
[thirstyfarmer.com](http://thirstyfarmer.com)

**NOVEMBER 5 & 12**  
Haunted Bus Tour  
[gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com](http://gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com)

**NOVEMBER 11**  
Pour Tour Shuttle Wine Friday  
[gettysburgbattlefieldbustours.com](http://gettysburgbattlefieldbustours.com)

**NOVEMBER 12**  
WWII Veteran Reunion  
[visitw2.org](http://visitw2.org)

**NOVEMBER 14**  
Mont Alto Star Nights  
[montalto.psu.edu](http://montalto.psu.edu)

**NOVEMBER 19**  
Howard Tunnel Special  
[northerncentralrailway.com](http://northerncentralrailway.com)



**NOVEMBER 25**  
Annual Tree Lighting Festival  
[gettysburgretailmerchants.com](http://gettysburgretailmerchants.com)

**NOVEMBER 26**  
Candlelight Tours National Shrine of  
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton  
[setonshrine.org](http://setonshrine.org)

**DECEMBER 2**  
First Friday: Our Favorite Things  
[gettysburgretailmerchants.com](http://gettysburgretailmerchants.com)

**DECEMBER 2-4**  
A Gettysburg Christmas Festival  
[agettysburgchristmasfestival.com](http://agettysburgchristmasfestival.com)

**DECEMBER 2, 9, 10, 17**  
Dark Side of Christmas  
[gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com](http://gettysburgbattlefieldtours.com)

**DECEMBER 31**  
New Years Eve 2023  
[@gettysburgnewyears](https://facebook.com/gettysburgnewyears)

**DECEMBER 31**  
New Year's Eve Pub Crawl  
[@gettysburgnewyears](https://facebook.com/gettysburgnewyears)

**DECEMBER 10**  
Christmas Taste and Traditions  
Food Tour  
[savorgettysburgfoodtours.com](http://savorgettysburgfoodtours.com)

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Deadline for entries is  
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smallest and medium-sized bell rings. The entire peal tolls at the start of the service hour. While some may not realize the specificity of the peal, the practices have been around for centuries.

“Remember, with bells, we’re going back to ancient means of communication. The bell calls people’s attention to worship, it is a call to the faithful for worship and prayer,” said Rev. Ryan Heycock.

**Mount St. Mary’s University** adheres to its Catholic foundation by providing both college education and seminary school. The church’s mission statement is to “graduate ethical leaders who are inspired by a passion for learning and lead lives of significance in service of God and others,” according to the university’s website.

The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception is central to the faith, the original beacon for study and worship. Located in Emmitsburg, Md., the chapel has stood for over 100 years. The IC Chapel was renovated in 2008 to celebrate its bicentennial, and was rededicated by Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien during a 2011 Mass.

In 2013, the 118-foot bell tower was struck by lightning, marring the roof and spreading smoke over the surrounding area. Incredibly, the cross at the top and the bell

sustained no damage. Constructed with rock-face granite mined in the surrounding mountain, the chapel was built in 1910. The massive 3,050-pound bell, also cast by McShane Bell Foundry, was a gift to the campus chapel from Anna Malloy to honor her late husband.

The massive bell reverberates through the campus. On June 20, 1911, the bell was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Edward Patrick Allen. Mount St. Mary’s official website refers to the Immaculate Conception Chapel as “the spiritual heart of the campus,” and its history reflects that consensus.

The university has grown consistently over the years, adding areas of worship all around the sprawling campus. Yet, the IC Chapel with its sounding bell remains the crown jewel of the religious institution.

Standing a block from the Gettysburg Square is **St. James Lutheran Church**. The massive brick structure along York Street is hard to miss. In 1911, after much deliberation, it was decided to demolish the original building and rebuild instead of remodeling. Rebuilding at its existing location upheld the people’s desire to be in the heart of Gettysburg. The idea was if the townspeople were struggling, the church would be more easily accessible.

It has withstood two large fires. The first, in 1928, caused damage requiring substantial

renovations. In 1969, the church once again was ablaze, this time a target of arson. The congregation remained steadfast in re-building once more. Although the church has had several exterior makeovers, one constant has been its melodic bell.

The tower is directly adjacent to the main doors, peering over the town, highly visible to anyone whose gaze is drawn heavenward. The bell is housed in a tower with a Roman-style roof, adorned with ornate moldings. Although completely covered, each side has three arched slots to allow its peal to be heard throughout Gettysburg. Like the Annunciation of Virgin Mary Catholic, it has three landings, including the belfry.

Church bells evoke different feelings for different people. Lifelong community members may gain comfort in their familiarity, while others feel a harmonic link to God. Our culture often associates them with holidays, marriages, even alerts, or simply a comforting daily occurrence. Depending on the time of year, the brilliance of a small town sunset may be accompanied by the rhythm of a swinging bell.

The ever-present nature of church bells throughout time developed a mystique that resonates around the world. Their beckoning signifies a call home, a call back to God Almighty or the reminder of one’s rural heritage. 📖



St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg

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Can't Miss



# NOVEMBER

3

**Adams County  
Community  
Foundation  
Giving Spree**  
adamscountycf.org

19

**Dedication Day**  
Anniversary of the  
Gettysburg Address  
lincolnfellowship.wildapricot.org

~ ~ ~

**66th Annual  
Remembrance  
Day Parade**

asuvcw.org

25

**Annual Tree  
Lighting**

**Santa Claus  
comes to town!**

gettysburgretailmerchants.com

# DECEMBER

2-4

**A Gettysburg  
Christmas Festival**  
agettyburgchristmasfestival.com

31

**New Years Eve 2023**  
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*Time to create your own  
happily ever after*  
at the

*Once Upon a Gettysburg  
Times Wedding Show*

STORY BY VANESSA PELLECHIO SANDERS • PHOTOS COURTESY HICKORY BRIDGE

It's time to create your own happily ever as you plan your dream wedding at Once Upon a *Gettysburg Times* Wedding Show, set for January.

The venue awaits couples and their guests at the Once Upon a *Gettysburg Times* Wedding Show, sponsored by Central PA Wedding Shows, on Sunday, January 29, 2023, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the Red Shed at Hickory Bridge Farm. Making it a true Adams County fairytale, the venue for the show is at the beautiful, rustic barn at Hickory Bridge Farm, 96 Hickory Bridge Road, Orrtanna.

This is the 21st anniversary of the *Gettysburg Times* hosting the wedding showcase, according to Loretta Plitt, production manager. It's simple to sign up, just visit the new website, [Gettysburgweddingshow.com](http://Gettysburgweddingshow.com), Plitt said. Couples can register right on the website, and people can purchase tickets there as well, she said. Vendors can use this website to sign up. The site will be updated regularly to reflect the list of vendors planning to attend this exciting annual show. Tickets to the wedding show, at just \$10, are available now through the website, [Gettysburgweddingshow.com](http://Gettysburgweddingshow.com).

"The last show we had was right before COVID-19 in 2020," Plitt said. "We've missed helping couples plan for their big day, but we are excited to have the show again. From caterers to music, everything you need will be at this show."

Heather Dino-Laughman, owner of Central PA Wedding Shows and the area's only all-female award-winning DJ company, HD Entertainment, said she enjoys connecting couples with reputable vendors. Central PA Wedding Shows are boutique-styled, venue-based wedding shows offering prizes and cash for couples tying the knot. HD Entertainment is a full-service special event entertainment company that uses state-of-the-art

equipment to add magic to every couple's special day.

"We have the experience of holding wedding shows in various parts of the state and are excited to partner with the *Gettysburg Times*," said Dino-Laughman, who has been a participating vendor at six wedding shows with the Times. "We are excited to be a part of this larger show and bring our experience."

Couples will have an opportunity to build relationships with and meet vendors face-to-face making this a one-stop shop wedding show, said Dino-Laughman. Each vendor will put her best foot forward, whether it's a caterer offering taste testing, or a bridal boutique displaying wedding gowns, she said.

"We hope to bring some local and national partnerships to the *Gettysburg Times* Wedding Show in that we have products and services that our couples will need to plan pretty much everything for their dream wedding at their fingertips," Dino-Laughman said. "I'm definitely excited to be a part of the rebirth of this amazing show."

Mary Lynn Martin, owner of Hickory Bridge Farm, said she is honored to be the venue chosen for the Once Upon a *Gettysburg Times* Wedding Show.

"It means a lot to me," Martin said. "We worked very hard over the last 45 years, and it feels very good to be able to showcase our property at Hickory Bridge Farm."

Hickory Bridge Farm is a quaint country restaurant and bed and breakfast retreat only nine miles west of Gettysburg, Martin said. Hospitality holds a special place in Martin's heart, so she enjoys having the opportunity to share her property with others to create memories, especially those as momentous as someone's wedding day.

The Red Shed at Hickory Bridge Farm,

originally a barn that was converted into a spacious and versatile event hall, is a new venue on the property, according to Martin, who says she aims to create an affordable dream wedding to fit anyone's budget.

"We want the fairytale wedding to feel that regardless of your background," Martin said. "I want to cater to anyone's budget no matter how much money they have. Let's make a fairytale for all the couples regardless of what their budgets are."

Creating fairytale weddings is what Once Upon a *Gettysburg Times* Wedding Show is all about, having hosted nearly 50 vendors at the 2020 wedding show, Plitt said.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we have more coming back now," Plitt said. "I am excited because for so long, people couldn't go anywhere or do anything during the pandemic. It will be nice to get back to what we enjoy and be there for anyone who is planning a wedding."

The Once Upon a *Gettysburg Times* Wedding Show will assist couples in looking forward to the next chapter of their lives and providing the perfect fairytale ending, their "happily ever after."

To learn about vendors, prizes, tickets, and more, or to sign up as a vendor, visit the *Gettysburg Times* new wedding show specific website, [Gettysburgweddingshow.com](http://Gettysburgweddingshow.com), to get up-to-date information on the January 29 extravaganza. 📍



Being a vendor at the show has many benefits. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or would like more information about the show, scan the QR code, visit the show's website at [Gettysburgweddingshow.com](http://Gettysburgweddingshow.com), or email [prod@gettysburgtimes.com](mailto:prod@gettysburgtimes.com)



# Gettysburg Funeral Parlor Balances Traditional with Nature



STORY BY ROCCO CASAZZA • PHOTOS BY DARRYL WHEELER

Most folks are uncomfortable talking about grief or the loss of a loved one. When a beloved family member or friend dies, it's often difficult to balance emotions when making tough decisions at a moment's notice.

Brandenburg & Stein Funeral Parlor, located off state Route 97, between Littlestown and Gettysburg, offers an eclectic array of options to accommodate clients during those difficult times. Established in 2020, the parlor is co-owned by Jim Stein, 62, and Rhea Brandenburg, 39. The dedicated entrepreneurs work well together, a metaphorical yin-yang working relationship in which one complements the other. Both noted they consider themselves complete opposites, yet it works out well for them.

"I think it starts with the male-female

thing. There are certain things I can bring but, talking with women, they may think I'm rough or abrasive, and loud, with my deep voice. Whereas with Rhea, she has that perspective, we can bounce things off each other and figure out the best way to deal with and handle things," Stein said.

The progression into their joint entrepreneurship was a logical step. Be it luck, destiny, or just overlapping opportunities, the two had a previous working relationship and a varied combination of education experience and talents to strengthen their partnership.

"We both were on the same page there because we got tired of working for people where it wasn't their top priority. We would commiserate and after a point, it's like, why don't we just open our own?" Brandenburg said.

Despite the familiarity of working in the

industry, there were early obstacles from settlement on the property to its grand opening. Most of the business challenges came from township ordinances and permits.

"It took us two years to settle. We put our offer in September 2019 but we took it over in November 2021. It was like a delay after another delay. So, once we got the actual permits, everything else just seemed to come together," Brandenburg explained.

These requirements took more time and money than anticipated. Shifting from a nonprofit venture, such as a church, to a business came with red tape from the township. Despite the delays, the duo was finally able to open their doors, offering people unique options. Living in an era where environmental concerns and societal emphasis are about going green, there are incentives to uphold these

principles. For example, Brandenburg and Stein Funeral Services offers a variety of biodegradable urns about which many people are unaware. These are made of assorted materials to not only be absorbed by nature, but also give options for families to say their final goodbyes.

“You’ve got sand, you’ve got salt, you’ve got gourds, you’ve got trees that the ashes can be placed, the tree grows. Now, the ashes of that person become part of that tree,” Stein said of cremation alternatives.

“The salt ones and sands ones are biodegradable in water. So, if someone loved the beach, you can take them to the beach one last time and then it will dissolve in about four hours,” Brandenburg added.

In terms of burials, the funeral parlor even offers wicker and bamboo caskets, also designed to break down and return the elements back into the ground. This eco-friendly option requires no vault and can be placed directly into the ground.

“I think we offer things that people don’t know exist. We kind of lay all the cards on the table and let everybody know every single option they have because we don’t want somebody to come back

to us after they’ve buried somebody and say, ‘Oh, I wish I would have done that,’” explained Brandenburg.

Two Taverns Cemetery warmly accompanies the chapel. When buying the property, the sale included everything on the grounds. This meant having to maintain the deceptively large cemetery grounds. Stein says there are just over 600 buried in the cemetery with another 600 available gravesites.

Memorial services offered within the chapel, previously Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church, allow attendees to gather in an environment with which they are most comfortable. Inside, curved pews are set in a classic interior. The subtle religious iconography is welcoming, while lending itself to a variety of personalized requests.

Privacy envelops the rural cemetery, the majority shielded from site. There is even a walking trail being cleared for those in attendance who may need a respite.

Brandenburg had the revelation that this was the career to pursue after working part time at a funeral home in Waynesboro.

“I guess it was morbid curiosity.

Personally, I didn’t see a deceased person until I was about 17, when my great-grandfather died. For some reason, there was fascination with the science and art of death,” Brandenburg said.

She earned her degree in mortuary science from Community College Baltimore County in 2008. Her initial experience in the industry gave her an advantage compared to classmates when she decided to study the sciences and service. She recalls many students having no familiarity with the embalming process and the totality it entailed.

After finishing school, she accepted a job at Rest Haven Funeral Chapel in Hagerstown. It was here the paths of two overlapped, meeting and tangentially working with Stein, who was a cemetery sales counselor at the time.

Behind the scenes, Brandenburg embalms and applies makeup for the deceased prior to services. She has a knack for artistry, and obtained her makeup-up artist license before working in funeral services. Combining her talents of makeup application with her mortuary education, Brandenburg is a tour de force of abilities to be an effective proprietor in the industry.

Stein has a much different history. He had envisioned working as a funeral director back when he was a young boy.

“Back when I was around six years old and I went with my parents to my great-grandfather’s funeral. I can remember that when we left, and got in the car to go home, I remember saying to my mom and dad, ‘When I grow up, I want to be a funeral director,’” Stein recalls.

Life steered Stein away from that early ambition, who as a young man quickly figured out college wasn’t for him. Stein’s mother gave him an ultimatum: choose a branch of the military or move out. Stein chose the Navy and enlisted in January 1980.

Stein’s time in the military brought him many different experiences. He went to Hospital Corpsman School before graduating to become an operating room technologist.

“Now I was dealing with, theoretically, the bodies of live people. But I was seeing the insides, so all of this is starting to go together,” Stein remembers.

While on deployment, he was able to navigate around the globe in this role,

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 20



with stints in the Philippines, Spain, France, Turkey and Somalia.

In 1998, Stein decided to go to mortuary school, coinciding with his final stretch of service in the military. He also graduated from CCBC, also earning a degree in mortuary science. His childhood career aspiration was now on track to be his long-term future.

Both Stein and Brandenburg are licensed morticians, funeral directors, and cemetery counselors in both Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The inevitability of death can bring a sense of anxiety, which is experienced differently by the survivor. Many have specific wishes or requests before they pass, while other circumstances dictate many choices to be made. Brandenburg & Stein Parlor helps people make those

choices. The thorough walk-through of products and services ensures the recently deceased is properly laid to rest.

Funeral proceedings are a practice as old as time, different customs for different cultures in different eras. This particular parlor understands this reality and has adapted to be on the cutting edge of the industry's commodities. They are adept in orchestrating a traditional funeral as easily as allowing the deceased to transform into a beautiful tree.

Eventually, we all return to dust in some manner after death, the differences with this new venture are the methods and vessels in which people are laid to rest. The expertise of Jim Stein and Rhea Brandenburg in doing so comes with their passion to help guide the bereaved during some of their toughest days. 🕯️



# Local veteran-owned businesses exemplify consistency, success through hard work

STORY BY ROCCO CASAZZA • PHOTOS BY DARRYL WHEELER

Effective business owners require numerous traits to maintain successful operations. Organization, multi-tasking, problem solving, leadership, and attention to detail are among just a few disciplines needed to run a smooth enterprise. Military veterans often credit their time in the service with teaching and sharpening these skills. The hectic lifestyles require attention and energy. Around the Gettysburg area, many servicemen and servicewomen deploy these virtues to the ins-and-outs of their industries.

**Stanley 'Dave' Sharrah Jr.** spent much of his life around his father's trifecta of automobile services, 30 West Auto Sales. As a boy, the Cashtown native attained knowledge of the trades from observation, asking the right questions and gaining hands-on experience.

If experience is the most effective way to master a trade, Sharrah was well prepared far before any formal automotive training.

"I learned more here than I did when I went to one of those auto tech schools," Sharrah explained. All the years at 30 West Auto Sales rendered trade school instruction redundant.

Apart from the auto repair shop and sales lot, Sharrah operates five buses and two vans for Gettysburg Area School District. Originally one company, the bus depot became 30 West Carriers Inc. when Stanley Sr. opted to make it a separate business.

"He split it up because he didn't think I wanted the buses. When it comes down it, I wound up getting the whole thing," said Sharrah.

Sharrah takes great pride in providing reliable transportation for Gettysburg Area School District. Despite the heightening costs of the maintenance, 30 West Carriers cuts no corners. The auto repair shop keeps five mechanics on staff, each one with a wealth of experience, including diesel tech. They also do custom exhaust work and offer Pennsylvania state inspections.

Sharrah Sr. started the business in 1960, hoping to create a venture for future generations. He moved to its current location, on Chambersburg Road, Gettysburg, in 1970. Dave bought the lot from his parents in 1983 and has

maintained the family business ever since. His sister, Yvonne, works with him as an office secretary.

The road to the present was not without its detours, however. In 1968, the US Army drafted Dave to serve during the Vietnam War. He was deployed to A Shau Valley that year, as a mortar infantryman. His company moved their camp every day for three weeks. One day, Vietcong soldiers attacked his camp and the exchange of fire wounded several Americans. Sharrah aided a wounded compatriot onto a helicopter, helping save his life.

Despite living through events that could be life altering for many, Sharrah is modest about his time in the Army. Undoubtedly a



proud veteran, he hangs remembrances of his Vietnam tour in the shop office.

Sharrah enjoys riding his '02 Suzuki motorcycle when he's not busy with his businesses. He participates in rides for charity with the American Legion. Although also an old hand at the auto business, the evolving industry still keeps him on his toes.

"You can learn something, no matter how old you are," Sharrah said.

The Historic Farnsworth House Inn is a Gettysburg landmark. If the house could speak, it would recall Abraham Lincoln and his procession passing by en route to deliver The Gettysburg Address. Its exterior walls absorbed more than 100 bullets during the conflict which nearly ripped the country in twain.

Farnsworth House was built in 1810, the brick structure in 1833. Currently, Farnsworth House Inn is a highlight of Civil War tourism, a Baltimore Street mainstay. The Department of the Interior has listed the house in The National Register of Historic Places.

**Loring Schultz** bought Farnsworth in 1972. He and his wife, Jean, have maintained a vigorous commitment to their establishment for 50 years. The bed and breakfast offers ten rooms for visitors, each ornamented with Victorian era furniture and décor. Stepping into the rooms immerses guests in the 19th century

Schultz's robust Civil War collection lines the walls of every room. He can tell you the story behind each photograph, sculpture, and painting he commissioned. The family restaurant, Sweney's Tavern, houses an extensive compilation of props and wardrobe used in the star-studded 1993 film, Gettysburg. Accurately detailed period dining rooms surround the main entrance and bar area.

Gettysburg ghost tours are a popular tourist attraction, and although there are a number of guides, Schultz's business started the trend in 1986. The basement of Farnsworth House is spookily decorated with eerie props. Guests sit on church pews in front of an open casket, listening to ghost stories as a prelude to the tour.

Complacency is not a concept that registers with Schultz. Growing up on a farm instilled the value of hard work which has defined his life. Additionally, serving in the military reinforced self-discipline that carries into his business pursuits.

Schultz as a young man intended to join the Marines, but the recruiter was a no-show, and the Air Force swooped in to sign him up. He worked as base control in Washington.

Throughout the years, Schultz has made various additions to the popular Baltimore Street business. He envisioned tranquil outdoor seating, so he added a beer garden. The green Victorian-style garden setting gives the illusion of being far removed from the center of town. A pump was added to the original stone waterways, recirculating local runoff water for a peaceful waterfall effect.

The most recent addition to the Farnsworth experience is an authentic campground area, complete with waterwheel. Living histories are held there.

Turning 90 this year, the jovial proprietor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



strolls the property each day as he has for the past 50 years. He could undoubtedly spend his days doing what he pleases, but he chooses to come to work daily. Every morning, he waters the plants, does yard work and provides maintenance.

“Hard work never killed anybody. That’s what keeps you young, your feet gotta hit the floor every day at 7:30, one way or another,” Schultz

Schultz thrives on being businessman and showman, a palpable passion for the Civil War and its significance. If you see him and ask him about his collection, you will get an earful.

**US Navy Seal Patrick Devlin** had an idea while deployed in the Afghan mountains. He envisioned opening a brewery after returning home, with a multitude of ideas to get it going.

“It was a dream of mine when I was in the military. I was home-brewing back then,” Devlin told WSBA Morning News.

The chief executive officer and majority owner realized this dream after pitching the idea to his high school friends. Tony DeLillis and Ben Ramsay chose to invest in their friend’s vision as minority owners. From there, the ascension into the beer and liquor industry began.

Tattered Flag Brewery and Still Works has grown larger and faster than anticipated. They began at their production facility in Middletown and now have five locations, including Hershey, Lancaster, Hollywood Casino in Grantville, and Gettysburg.

The ten-barrel brewing system at the Middletown production facility allows them to use in-house beers as a base to experiment and develop new brews.

The distillery produces several types of vodka, rum, tequila, gin, and whiskeys. Some are flavored, or barrel rested, or blended, and some are premium versions of vodka. Suffice to say, there is an option for every liquor enthusiast and cocktail aficionado.

Tattered Flag’s enduring military motif is not just surface level marketing. Service and honor are what the ownership and

management live by, personally and professionally. Perhaps the “pay it forward” mentality of Devlin and his partners has aided in manifesting early success.

During the COVID pandemic, Tattered Flag began making hand sanitizers, donating over 700 gallons to first responders, fire departments, police departments, emergency medical service and the medical industry.

“Opportunities kept presenting themselves. We had relationships with the right people,” said General Manager Brittnee Moore.

One example came when Tattered Flag’s previous distiller, who ran ghost tours in Gettysburg, presented an opportunity for Tattered Flag to takeover the space next to his tour business. In June 2018, the taps were flowing and tourists stopped in for drinks.

Moore has been with the company since 2017. She initially was looking forward to bar tending but Devlin knew she would thrive in a larger role. Moore is an Army veteran, also deployed to Afghanistan. Her devotion to the brand is partially because of that but more so, she feels valued and respected by the owners.

“I love it so much because it feels like a family. They are some of the best people to work for. They’re willing to work with us,” Moore said.

She oversees the five locations, even bartending at The Gettysburg Tap Room when needed. Her previous managerial experience and understanding of Tattered Flag’s operation makes her a valuable commodity to maintaining success across the board.

Service to peers takes on many forms. It could be providing goods or consumer services, or patriotic allegiance to serve in the military. Both are considered difficult lifestyles, requiring specific routines. The three business owners are living testaments to the overlapping of these worlds.

The fruits of their labor and the lessons learned along the warrior paths have proven a good return on their investments. Although their specific operations are run with distinctive dynamics, the common fabric is being tough, resilient, and reliable. Each is grateful for the opportunities to succeed in their home state. Be it decades of dedicated service, or a quick expansion, the feelings prove to be mutual. 🍷

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