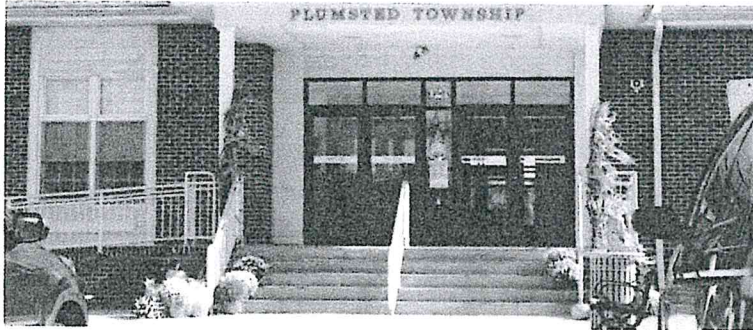


PLUMSTED TOWNSHIP

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PRESS RELEASE

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Flag Flies Proud Again Thanks To Community Support

PLUMSTED – For some time the township’s flagpole located on Main Street parking lot in New Egypt has remained unused at night because of a light that was not functioning. Thanks to the generosity of a local business, “Old Glory” is flying again 24 hours a day.

Township officials, Boy Scouts, Scouts BSA and residents gathered at the site on the morning of Oct. 5 to celebrate the return of the flag which will now fly day and night.

Present at the ceremony were Township Mayor Jack A. Trotta joined Deputy Mayor Eric Sorchik and Committeemen Herb Marinari and Leonard Grilletto along with members of Boy Scout Troop #9 and Scouts BSA Troop 19.

Pastor Dominick Cuozzo of the Bible Baptist Church presented the opening prayer and members of Scout Troop #9 raised the flag. Members of Scouts BSA made up of female scout members, passed out small American flags for attendees to hold during the ceremony.

The mayor read a short essay called “Remember Me?”

The essay recalled a time when the American flag had received more respect.

“Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star-Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade, and naturally, I was always there, proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart. Remember? I remember you standing there straight as a soldier. You didn’t have a hat, but you were giving the right salute.”

Trotta noted that he and his wife had attended several sporting events in the state, New York and Pennsylvania earlier in the year and at each one “I was amazed at the number of people that no longer remove their hats when the Star Spangled Banner is sung before the game. What a disgrace.”

“It is my hope that all children across America will again be taught the basic human value of respect for others and our country, instead of being told it is okay to disrespect our flag and its

leaders by sitting or kneeling or keeping their hat on during the Pledge of Allegiance or the singing of The Star Spangled Banner,” the mayor added.

The mayor presented Don and Steve Reed of Reed Electric a proclamation of thanks for the repair of the light. “We have not been able to fly a flag here for some time now, because the light wasn’t working. Thank you Don and Steve for donating the repair of this light. Thank you to our Scouts for being here today to help raise our flag again,” Trotta said.

Committeeman Grilletto coordinated the morning’s ceremony. “Steve Reed approached me and stated that the light for the Main Street flagpole was out. Since the light was out, it meant the flag could not fly 24 hours a day. When I went home that night I was disturbed, a month before I saw a CBN broadcast of old U.S. Marine who recalled that in the middle of battle of the fourth day he heard marines shouting and the whistles of the support ships. He looked up and saw the American flag fly on Mt. Suribach,” Grilletto said.

Grilletto added that, “even though some of our streets are being excavated there was no reason why the American flag should not be flying over Plumsted Township. I asked Don and Steve Reed to volunteer and donate the repair of the light. They did. That made the flag raising ceremony possible.”

Out of this simple idea, “the Pride in Plumsted Project was born. The idea is to have Plumsted residents participate in the beautification of Plumsted. A project where residents can participate by observation, volunteer time, skills and ideas towards the beatification of the township.”

Grilletto said that “by being the eyes and ears of the community and by reporting low cost items that need repair as the flag pole light, missing street signs, painted over street sign and defaced township property we can make the community look better. We are looking for resident’s input on ways to enhance our pride in Plumsted. We would welcome volunteers time and/or specialized skills. The projects must be on township property and low cost items.”