



Grand Marshal Joseph Longobardi

Joseph Longobardi served in the 14th Armored Division of the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946, providing support to combat troops in France, Germany and Belgium, maintaining heavy equipment to ensure it got back to the front lines ASAP.

After basic training at Fort Reilly, Kansas, Joseph landed in France with the 136th Ordnance BN in October of 1943. His tour began in an unexpected way. After making port in Marseilles and a ten mile march to set up camp, Joseph's CO invited his men to join him at the Marseilles opera house, where La Traviata was performed. For Joseph, a man of 18 years, who prior to joining the Army had seldom left his home neighborhood, it was an unforgettable experience.

A few weeks later, assigned to Emergency Repair duty, PFC Longobardi marched with his company to Alsace Lorraine where the men were introduced to the war, encountering fields of wrecked tanks and half-tracks, which they were to repair. Joseph says, "At that stage of the war the American light armor tanks, with their 37-mm guns, were no match for the 88-mm weapons carried by the German armored vehicles." The company was attacked on two occasions, notably a shelling at Saverne, where many of their number were killed or injured. Joseph was later assigned to the 115th Anti-aircraft Gun Battalion, which was present at the Third Army's crossing of the Rhine in 1945. He was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant the following year.

Back home, inspired in part by his work in the service, Joseph pursued degrees in Physics at Manhattan College and New York University. He worked as an engineer at Aberdeen Proving Ground and at Norden Laboratories. He later joined the faculty of the State University of New York Maritime College, as Professor of Physics. In 1978 he was appointed Chairman of SUNY Maritime's Science Department. His more than 30-year academic career, in which he taught and mentored scores of young merchant marines, and developed a nuclear engineering curriculum to enhance their training, ended with his retirement in 1990.

Joseph says today that he is grateful to have served and to have returned home safely to his family in his hometown, Yonkers, NY. He now lives with his wife, Elinor, in Denville. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. His daughter, Marybeth Smith, and her husband Brandon are longtime residents of Mountain Lakes. Joseph's appreciation of opera persists. 🇺🇸



Speaker: Mark DiIunno

Mark Di Iunno, a 19-year Mountain Lakes resident, was a 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist in news commentary and four-time winner of the New Jersey Press Association's award for column writing. His columns appear regularly in The Star-Ledger, and its online partner, nj.com.

He was an editor for the paper's 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of Gov. Jim McGreevey's abrupt resignation and the 2001 Pulitzer-finalist coverage of the Seton Hall fire.

The father of six is the author of three award-winning nonfiction books. "New Jersey's Coastal Heritage" and "A Guide to New Jersey's Revolutionary War Trail" each received the New Jersey Academic Alliance Award.

"Backroads, New Jersey" was named among the most notable New Jersey books (1995–2005) by the New Jersey Center for the Book. He was also a contributing editor to "The Encyclopedia of New Jersey."

Di Iunno's first novel "The Last Newspaperman," along with his Revolutionary War book, were put on NJ 350's "101 Greatest New Jersey Books." The novel was also a finalist in USA Books and Fore-Word Reviews "Best of 2012" contests. He is an adjunct professor of journalism at Rutgers University.

Di Iunno was a Navy Corpsman assigned to the Navy Regional Medical Center in Philadelphia, an amputee center in the post-Vietnam years. That experience moved him to write frequently about the treatment and plight of our combat veterans.



2016 Mountain Lakes MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES



MONDAY, MAY 30TH • MOUNTAIN LAKES, NJ



CEREMONY

Presentation of Colors & National Anthem

Mountain Lakes Volunteer Fire Department & Sara Davidson, Class of 2016

Welcome and Opening of Ceremony

Mayor Peter Holmberg

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Debra Duke

"Amazing Grace"

Police Pipes & Drums of Morris County, NJ

Introduction of Veterans

Mayor Peter Holmberg

Introduction of Grand Marshal - Joseph Longobardi

Mayor Peter Holmberg

"The Thunderer"

John Philip Sousa - Arr. Michael Story
Briarcliff & Wildwood Bands

Introduction of Speaker: Mark DiIunno

Mayor Peter Holmberg

Mountain Lakers Currently Serving

Mayor Peter Holmberg

Placing of the Memorial Wreaths & "TAPS"

Wreath Placement and Flag Attendants: Girl Scouts
and Boy Scouts of Mountain Lakes
Bugler: Kyle Whittemore

"Patriotic Bits and Pieces" - Arr. Michael Story

Briarcliff & Wildwood Bands

Closing Remarks

Mayor Peter Holmberg

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Debra Duke

Placement of Flowers

Mountain Lakes Children and Families

Joao Goncalves and the Wildwood Band; Paul Campbell and the Briarcliff band; Lynne Neeley, our Interpreter; Girl Scout Volunteers; Boy Scout Volunteers; Marge Jackson for help with Flowers & Weaths; Pam Gillie Photography; Those who loaned their cars for the parade; Thanks to Mark Prusina and the DPW; Parade Route Flag Volunteers; Parade route flags donated by Coldwell Banker Mountain Lakes Office.

IN MEMORIAM

Mountain Lakers who served and gave their lives for our Country

Joseph P. Bowden

Charlie E. Butts, Jr.

Frederick Castle

Gilbert Cole

William R. Fleming, Jr.

Gilbert H. Higgins, Jr.

Gilbert Jones

Howard B. Larlee

David T. Powell

Edwin T. Sanders

Robeson Sherrerd

Thomas B. Stickney, Jr.

John V. Thiem

William M. Thompson

Quin Turkington

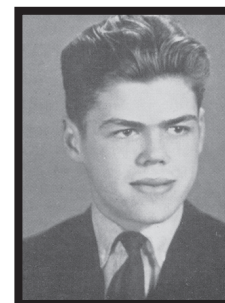
William T. Haines, Jr.

Robert L. Asmuth, Jr.

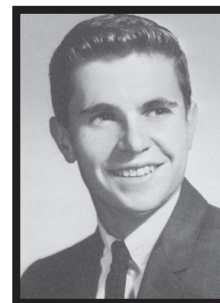
David Nash

Edward J. Smith, Jr.

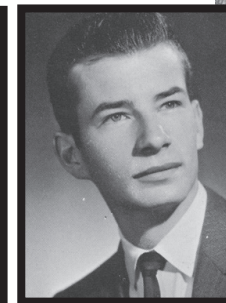
Peter B. Hass



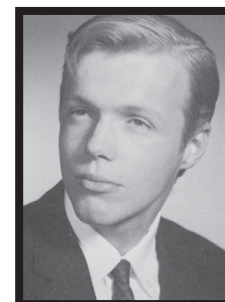
Dick Fleming
Class of '38



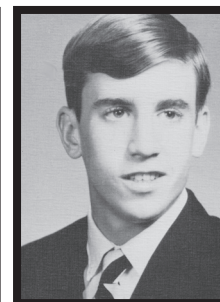
Dave Nash
Class of '64



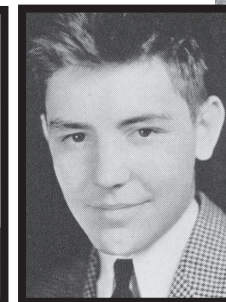
Jeff Smith
Class of '62



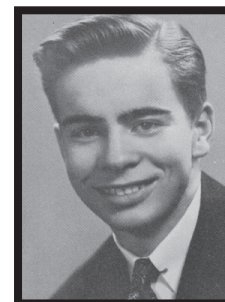
Bob Asmuth
Class of '66



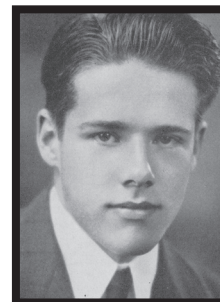
Pete Haas
Class of '74



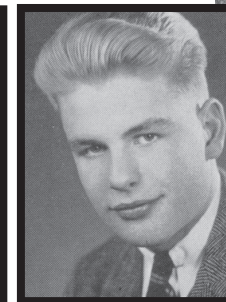
Gilbert Cole
Class of '39



Bill Haines
Class of '47



Quin Turkington
Class of '41



Gilbert Higgins
Class of '40

Boonton Township Vets who served and gave their lives for our Country

Walter Babbit

Richard Paul Kelly

Robie Soltes

Walter P. Jackman, Jr.

Archie J. Piscitello