

MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

A compilation of items of interest to MERA Members June 2022

A Note from MERA President

Honoring and Remembering

Mothers and Fathers and our Veterans

To Mothers: we honor our MERA Members and Spouses who are Mothers and Grandmothers and we honor and we remember our Mothers who we love always and who always love us.

To Fathers: we honor our MERA Members and Spouses who are Fathers and Grandfathers and we honor and we remember our Fathers who give us so much and who we love always.

To Veterans: to all our MERA Members and your loved ones, we thank you for your service and your bravery and your sacrifice to keep us free and to keep our nation great.

Each of you has contributed so much to the development of the people in our country

We all say "Thank you."

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MERA Member Profile

Rich Faust has been busy. Busy ever since he graduated from Shillington High School in 1946 and started working at the Berkshire Knitting Mills. "I worked my pants off so the ladies could have silk stockings!" When the stocking trade moved overseas, Rich moved to beer. Not consuming it; making it. He worked at The Reading Brewery and The Sunshine Brewery until they went out of business too. Finally, he thought electricity might be here to stay and came to work for Met-Ed at the coal-burning Eiler Generation Station in West Reading in 1969. His first job was hot and dirty; he was a "deslagger" whose job it was to clean the boilers and remove the ash. When he retired 20 years later, Rich was a First Class Repairman in Building Services at the Pottsville Pike building.

Rich and his wife Vivian met in high school where Rich excelled in football, basketball and track. The couple was pictured in their yearbook as Outstanding Senior Couple. In August they will celebrate their 74th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren.

They lived on a 50-acre farm in Spring Township. They bought the first parcel of land in 1950. Rich built the family home with his own hands from hewing the lumber from his own trees to installing the plumbing and the electricity. (You can see why Met-Ed thought he was a handy person to have around.) "I love anything to do with construction," says Rich. And in fact, he never stopped building: ponds for the grandkids, a mountain cabin, and outbuildings. Once he retired, he worked the farm and raised Black Angus cattle. He also invested a lot of time into getting a hazardous waste site in Spring Township closed and put on the Superfund list.

Vivian and Rich have traveled all over the United States in their trailer and once took a 12-week trip out to Alaska and back. Rich is an enthusiastic hunter and in his travels he has shot deer, elk, moose, antelope, bear and mountain sheep. They both loved going on the MERA bus trips...not just for the interesting places and the good food but the chance to spend time with Met-Ed folks.

Rich says to fellow retirees: "Don't be afraid to keep busy. By the time you read this I will be 94 and it hasn't killed me yet!"

MERA Trip Review by Kathy Dorward Virginia International Tattoo – April 27-29, 2022

Day one of our three-day trip was a travel day with arrival at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Virginia Beach overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the scenic North Beach. The morning sunrises were stunning.

Day two was a busy day: Cruising the Norfolk Harbor on the Victory Rover, touring the Military Aviation Museum, and ending with the International Tattoo Performance.

Aboard the ship, Victory Rover, we had a guided tour of the Port of Virginia, the harbor formed by the Elizabeth and Lafayette Rivers. The harbor, which is dredged to a depth of 55 feet, consists of 6 terminals that can handle all types of cargo. Views of the containers on the docks and the huge million-dollar cranes that are

used for both imports and exports were impressive sights. The harbor is also home to the Norfolk Naval Station. Ships that were visible included destroyers, carriers, submarines, as well as many smaller ships that are all part of the Naval Fleet. The Military Aviation Museum was our next stop. The guided tour included a hangar of the WWI planes used by the fighter pilots during the first world war. All the planes were restored to its original military condition.

After a family style dinner at the Bravo Cucina Italiana, we headed to the International Tattoo performance at the Norfolk Scope Arena. The term “tattoo” is derived from the 17th and 18th centuries and refers to a ceremonial performance of military music. For those of us who were seeing the performance for the first time, it was an impressive display of music and maneuvers by the U.S. and international military groups. The audience was entertained for two non-stop action-packed hours. The military bands were represented by all branches of the U.S. military, as well as international regiments from Jordan, United Kingdom, and Netherlands. The Tattoo dance company also had an international touch, comprising dancers from Brazil, Canada, and United Kingdom. It is hard to describe the pageantry witnessed and emotion felt by all.

Day three was designated as the day to travel home. Our driver Monty did an exceptional job navigating the Virginia Beach area and the I95/Beltways. Larry Lenhart did an excellent job as trip leader, keeping us moving and on time during all the scheduled events.

Volunteers needed

If you've been to a MERA monthly meeting lately, you know we have great speakers or performers *but that's not all!* We also enjoy some pretty fine snacking! We are looking for volunteers to help with meeting snacks – just one meeting per year. Can you help us out? Email Jim Zieber at joyzei@aol.com and let him know. Thank you for your consideration!

Welcome New Members!

Welcome new retiree **Earl Frantz!** And also to new members **Mark Livingston** (recruited by **Walt LaSota**), **Gary Eck**, **Michael Mathias**, **Jeff Fick** (recruited by **Carol Lied**) and **Dave Webster** (recruited by **Kathy & Lin Seyler**). We are so happy to have you with us!

Remember, anyone who recruits a new member any time during the year will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates at the Holiday Luncheon. The new member form can be found on merasite.org or send an email to KBaxter@ptd.net.

June MERA Member Milestones

Happy June Anniversary!

Stephen & Maryellen Beck
Leon & Claire Bergstresser
Ron & Janet Bortz
Eugene & Dolores Carter
Denis & Kathy Dorward
Tom & Gail Edelman
Allan & Lela Epting
Dave & Judy Fair
Ralph & Estelle Fehr

Ron & Patti Furman
Robert & Charlotte Galgon
Gerald & Janet Hotzman
Ron & Sharon Hrabak
Fred & Mary Janosky
Roxann Luckenbill & Jeff
Sterner
Don & Lynn Miller
Sandy & Bill Myskowski
Ralph & Bonnie Paparella

Rory & Josephine Pfeifer
Patricia & Michael Phile
Jane & Verlin Renner
Ralph & Marva Rhode
Ron & Joy Sands
Jerome & Dolores Schlott
Bruce & Maria Stempo
Dick & Pat Tracy
Ray and Faye Warmkessel
Don & Kitty Wise

Happy June Milestone Birthday!

A milestone birthday is one that ends in a “0” or a “5.”

Ralph E. Fehr II Thomas Hombach
Bob Fields Fred Janosky
Donna Goughnour Gene Lesher
Dave Heckman Shirley McClure

Stan Miller
Jane Richards
Stephen Werner

People born in June are effortlessly attractive.
Known as social butterflies, charismatic June babies easily draw everyone's attention, making them attractive both inside and out.

