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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Eagle Scout Recognized For Helping Honor Deceased Veterans

*Eagle Scout Researched Graves of 178 Veterans; Veterans Were Honored with Ceremony, Military Markers and Flags*

**Carlisle, PA** – During a ceremony at the Mt. Holly Springs Cemetery, 15-year-old Eagle Scout Casey Essig of Troop 170 of Mt. Holly Springs was recognized by the Cumberland County Commissioners for his work in ensuring that 178 veterans were properly honored with American flag holders, based on their military status. At today's ceremony, Casey Essig, his Scout Master, and the Cumberland County Director of Veterans Affairs placed flag holder, flag and a flower at the grave of Civil War Veteran William Kennedy.

Kennedy is among veterans who served in the War of 1812, Civil War, Korean War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII and Vietnam. The veterans are among several thousand graves in the Mt. Holly Springs Cemetery dating back to the mid-1800s.

"Every Memorial Day, we would put flags on the veterans' graves and we found that there were always extra flags due to missing holders," said Eagle Scout Casey Essig. "So, for my Eagle Scout project I researched the veterans' graves, the war they fought in and their military service affiliation."

Only four percent of scouts in the Boy Scouts of America have received the rank of Eagle Scout since it's the inception of the award in 1911. A scout is required to earn at least 21 merit badges and demonstrate scout spirit, as well as plan, organize, and lead an extensive service project to be promoted to Eagle Scout. However, Casey has earned 36 merit badges, going above and beyond with his service project.

"Casey wrote and told us about his project, and to complete his work to garner the Eagle Scout status, the department donated the flag holders, flags and flowers to the soldiers," said Veteran Affairs Director Danny Osten.

Honoring all the veterans in the cemetery, the Cumberland County Commissioners placed a wreath, at the Veterans Memorial in remembrance of their sacrifice to our country.

“When we heard what Casey had done, we wanted to share his work with the residents and veterans of Cumberland County,” said Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. “This project took time and research, and the county is honored to have played a part in recognizing Casey’s success.”

The Cumberland County Commissioners would like to thank the Cumberland County Honor Guard, the Casey Essig and his family, Scout Master John Reese, Troop 170, Mt. Holly Springs, Richard Denison, Pennsylvania State Chaplain for the PA American Legion, Annie Strite, Cumberland and Perry County Mental Health Director, and Dr. Donald Roeder for their participation in today’s ceremony.

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