



ARMY WAR COLLEGE VIA FACEBOOK

Community members take a pause during a ceremony at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., to dedicate a youth center named in honor of a fallen soldier from the area. An Army War College professor writes of the community's spirit of service.

ONE TOWN'S ARMY PRIDE

The transition from summer to fall seasons is always bittersweet.

It is especially poignant for members of Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, as we recall the service and sacrifices of those who have been a part of our community. In August, Maj. Gen. Harold Greene (“Harry” to us) became the most senior U.S. casualty while deployed since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Although Harry was no longer assigned to Carlisle Barracks after his 2003 graduation from the Army War College, his wife, Sue, remained part of our faculty team for several years until her military retirement.

Maj. Gen. Greene was laid to rest in the same Section 60 of Arlington Cemetery as Sgt. Patrick Hawkins, a 2007 graduate of Carlisle High School, who was killed in Afghanistan as he rushed to aid his comrades.

His parents — retired Col. Roy and fiercely supportive mother Sheila — have remained an integral part of our community. In September, they joined in the dedication of Carlisle Barracks’ new Sgt. Andrew H. McConnell Youth Center.

Andrew was the first of our military community to fall in Afghanistan in September 2009. His father, Scott — a retired colonel and former Army War College staff member — and sister Amelia

spoke of his enduring legacy with Carlisle Barracks families.

Four other fallen service members who called the area home died in Iraq: Maj. Wesley J. Hinkley, Staff Sgt. Kimberly A. Voelz and Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas B. Morrison hailed from Carlisle, and Sgt. Timothy Hayslett called nearby Newville home. A stretch of Route 233 in Cumberland County was renamed in his honor.

These soldiers and their families were on my mind as I watched the Army’s Spirit of America show in Hershey. This pageant affirms that the history of the Army is inseparable from the history of our nation. I was deeply moved by the talent, discipline and diversity of the soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment and the U.S. Army Band — “Pershing’s Own.”

I envisioned a young Andrew and Patrick accompanying their fathers to such a show. They and their families, and dual-military couples like Harry and Sue, are role models to the next generation of citizens who will fill the ranks of our armed forces.

Such families and others embody the true spirit of America. It is they who inspire our sons and daughters to serve the nation and to offer the “last full measure of devotion,” as Abraham Lincoln said, to its ideals.

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