

129TH MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Southampton Township held its 129th consecutive Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th. It was preceded by services at Memorial Field, the Baptist and Methodist cemeteries and The Grange. The parade started at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street. Melvin S. Black, Sr., a veteran and long-time resident of Southampton, was the parade's distinguished Grand Marshal. Leading the parade was the precision Military Honor Guard and Firing Squad, followed by the American Legion and wreath bearers. Many of Southampton's veterans joined the parade and rode on two of the numerous parade floats.

Other highlights of the parade included military vehicles, antique cars and trucks, farm tractors as well as our Township's own fire and emergency squad vehicles. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts marched as well. There were numerous bands including the Seneca and Lenape High School Marching Bands, the Freedom Brass Band, the Greater Trenton Pipes and Drums Band, the Goodtimers Band, and the Joey K Band - all providing continuous patriotic music.

The parade ended at the War Memorial near Allen's Oil at the north entrance to Vincentown. During the ceremony that followed, Colonel James L. Kerr, Commander of the 514th Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, McGuire Air Force Base, was the guest speaker. The playing of taps by Edward Lynd, Sr. concluded the ceremony. A luncheon followed at The Grange Hall to honor all Township veterans.

The Township Committee wishes to thank all veterans, as well as all other parade and ceremony participants and those involved in the preparation of this special day. If you missed it, we hope you will make the 130th in 2010!