



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Gettysburg Hibernians to Sign Covenant**

**New Cumberland;** On July 17, during opening ceremonies of the Adams County Irish Festival at Moose Park, Gettysburg the Private Barney Devine Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Adams County will put pen to paper and sign a Community Covenant with the Armed Forces to show their support of the Military and their Families. Following the signing a true "Community Covenant" will be on display so Festival patrons can put pen to paper and show their support of today's military and their Families.

What is the Community Covenant? The Community Covenant; started in 2008, is an initiative of the Secretary of the Army to invite communities and organizations across America to demonstrate their support for all Service members and their families in this time of war-the longest in our Nation's history with an all volunteer force.

The Community Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the military to improve the quality of life for Service members and their Families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer to other states. It is a formal commitment of support by state and local communities to Service members and Families of all Services- Active, Guard and Reserve.

Signing ceremonies are scheduled in cities and towns both with and without a significant military presence.

The Community Covenant program is tailored to the local level, with leaders at both local and state levels participating.

Community Covenant signings have led to new programs or initiatives of support for Service Members and their Families.

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The State House of Representatives and the PA Senate have both passed Resolutions supporting a Covenant.

“This is something that as an organization we felt was of utmost importance for us to do,” said Charlie McKinney, President with the Adams County Hibernians, “Ultimately each of us has a moral obligation to do what is right to support the Service members and their Families. Those in the military are our friends, family and relatives and signing this Covenant is the right thing to do.”

Military signers will include Major William Hammac the US Army Recruiting Company and Spc. Tory Warren, Gettysburg resident and USAR Soldier. Presenting the colors will be members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association, Civil War Re-enactors and color guard members from other Hibernian divisions.

#### **About the Festival**

"In its 11<sup>th</sup> year the Adams County Irish Festival is produced annually by the non-profit Irish Heritage Foundation of Gettysburg to promote Irish culture and celebrate Irish-American heritage, the Adams County Irish Festival benefits worthy Irish and Irish-American charities."

Media inquiries; may contact the Battalion public affairs office at 717-770-7193, 717-713-8907 or [bill.irwin@usarec.army.mil](mailto:bill.irwin@usarec.army.mil).