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## Honoring Those Who Gave All this Memorial Day

By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - Memorial Day stands as a solemn cornerstone of American life.

It is a day when the nation pauses to honor the brave service and sacrifice of our fallen heroes.

In Pennsylvania, this observance carries a particular weight, as the Keystone State has long shouldered a profound share of that burden, from the battlefields of the Civil War to conflicts abroad.

Tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians have paid the ultimate price across our nation's wars, including more than 26,000 during World War II alone. These lives, given so selflessly, remind us that our liberties were purchased at an immeasurable cost.

On this day, we remember them with deep gratitude and renewed commitment to the freedoms they died to preserve.

Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it." – Unknown

This Memorial Day, we pause to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Because of their courage, we are able to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear.

To the families who carry the weight of that loss each day—please know their sacrifice was not in vain. We remember them. We honor them. And we are forever grateful.

"On this Memorial Day, I am thinking about every American across generations who gave everything they had for our freedom. As a combat veteran, I had the honor of serving alongside some of the very best this country has to offer — people united by duty, service, sacrifice, and love of country. May we honor their patriotism and their sacrifice" said U.S. Senator Dave McCormick.



Photo is from Memorial Day 2025 at East Bangor cemetery

## Slate Belt Chamber Student Scholarship Recipients

By State Rep. Ann Flood

The Slate Belt Chamber recently held its 2026 scholarship awards ceremony at the Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center, bringing together families, educators and community members to celebrate five outstanding local students.

Congratulations to the 2026 Slate Belt Chamber scholarship recipients:

- Alexander Hobson Garcia of Bangor Area High School, recipient of the Frederick R. Curcio Jr. Scholarship Award, will study computer science at Boston University.
- Liam Hayes of Bangor Area High School will study mechanical engineering at Penn State University.
- Ella Mamana of Pen Argyl Area High School will study materials science and engineering at Cornell University.
- Daniella Fortuna of Faith Christian School will study psychology at Penn State Scranton.
- Abigail Coleman of CIT and Bangor Area High School will study exercise science and athletic training at Shenandoah University.

I was proud to join the Chamber in recognizing these students and to present certificates of recognition to each scholarship recipient. These students have worked hard to reach this milestone, and they represent the very best of our region. I look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the years ahead.

To view photos with the award recipients, click here. <https://links.pahousenews.com/q/WTkij5Clna0Xw5lgyIFX7SYXJCbNaEsZNDZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4gXqXUqEp4e7upLVpn-8KLxNFYqkg>.



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