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## Remember the Fallen This Memorial Day, May 25

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

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.



## River Crossing YMCA Brakes Ground For It's \$9 Million Renovation For Its Nazareth Branch

By Michael Ortoski

NAZARETH, Pa. - A multimillion-dollar project is now in the works in Northampton County as the Nazareth YMCA prepares century-old building to receive modern upgrades in \$9M project.

The project is a renovation of the portion of the current building that was built well over 100 years old. "Last year, River Crossing YMCA launched a \$9 million fundraising campaign for its largest project ever" said Crystal Messer, VP of Operations for River Crossing YMCA.

The project includes adding preschool

"We're going to give it that refresh that it needs and the refresh the community needs as well," Messer stated. At Thursday's groundbreaking, community members and those involved in the project wrote down reflections, notes and memories of the Nazareth branch.

"We're putting a legacy capsule together today which is like a time capsule," said Debbie Sontupe, Chief Development Officer for River Crossing YMCA. The project is expected to take 12-18 months, with completion set for the end of 2027.

