



## Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Kelly Neiderer, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Gary Eichelberger, Secretary

### Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Cumberland County Rings in 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*County Commissioners celebrate Generations in the making; past, present and future.*

**Carlisle, PA** – Marking the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cumberland County in Veterans Memorial Courtyard, in Carlisle, Cumberland County Commissioners honored the past, acknowledged the present, and looked toward the future. In celebration of the event, local churches, colleges, and fire departments across the county tolled bells for two minutes at 11:30 a.m.

Named in honor of Cumberland, England, Cumberland County was officially founded on January 27, 1750. The ceremony opened with Town Crier Jim Griffith and his son Aedan, clad in 1750's period clothing and proclaiming the founding of the county at the 275<sup>th</sup> ceremony.

Over the years, the county has been the backdrop for numerous pivotal events and the home of prominent figures. Notable moments include Benjamin Franklin's successful negotiation of the Indian Treaty of Carlisle, as well as the signing of the Declaration of Independence by three local attorneys—George Ross, James Smith, and James Williams—in 1776. In 1783, fellow signer Benjamin Rush played a key role in founding Dickinson College by drafting its charter, further enriching the region's history. Additionally, in 1794, George Washington gathered troops in Carlisle to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion, underscoring the county's importance during crucial moments in American history.

"As we mark this significant milestone, we take a moment to honor the rich history that has shaped our county into what it is today," said Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. "Our county has had the privilege of welcoming influential leaders, including Presidents Jimmy Carter, George W. Bush, and Donald J. Trump, as well as a young Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr."

During the celebration, 10 employees were recognized for their combined years of service, totaling an impressive 275 years.

"As we reflect on our county's many achievements, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the dedicated individuals who make Cumberland County government run smoothly," said Commissioner Jean Foschi. "With more than 1,000 employees working tirelessly to serve our residents, these individuals are the backbone of our county."

In 1750, Cumberland County had a population of 3,000 residents. Today, we are one of Pennsylvania's fastest-growing counties, with more than 270,000 residents spread across 33 municipalities.

"With our population growth, we recognize that we will continue to see an increasing demand for services," said Commissioner Kelly Neiderer. "We are proactively planning for a future whereby we continue some of the tried-and-true practices of the past, while using new technology to transform operations to provide new and improved services to our residents."

The celebration ended with a hot chocolate toast to the county given by Commissioner Neiderer, "Here's to 275 years of history, and to many more years of growth, prosperity, and shared success. May we continue to honor our past, celebrate our present, and embrace our future together. Cheers to our county, to all of you, and to generations in the making!"

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