

News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Officials Gather to Commemorate the War of 1812

On Monday, June 18, 2012, Executive Russ Pry, the Summit County Veterans Service Commission and the William Wetmore Chapter of the Daughters of 1812 gathered to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812 at the Veterans Service Commission in Akron. The event attracted a mix of over a hundred citizens, community leaders, historians and veterans.



After welcoming elected officials and agenda participants to the event, Executive Russ Pry delivered an inspiring speech on the War of 1812. "This year marks the bicentennial of a war that played out across Ohio and the Midwest; a war that produced 350 veterans whose remains now lie in consecrated ground throughout Summit County," stated Executive Russ Pry. "As we remember veterans of the "Forgotten War" lest we not forget the veterans of today, those who served in war and peace in days easier for us to remember without the aid of a history book."

Immediately following Pry's remarks, Sharon Myers, president of the William Wetmore Chapter of the Daughters of 1812 presented Pry with a 15-star flag that was gifted to the County of Summit from the State of Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. The flag was then raised by War of 1812 Reenactor Ted Dudra. To honor the "Ring the Bells for 1812" campaign being sponsored by the National Society United States Daughters of 1812, the Summit County Bicentennial Bell rang as the flag reached its highest point. VSC Board Member Mike Stith led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Summit County government employee Carol Bloom sang the National Anthem.

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Summit County Veterans Service Commission Commissioner Arnon W. "Sonny" Cool then presented Sharon Myers with a symbolic "War of 1812 - U.S. Veteran" flag holder in appreciation of her hard work she put towards honoring the 350 veterans of the War of 1812 buried in Summit County.

Myers learned of the 350 veterans by trekking through cemeteries, indexing grave sites, photographing tombstones and compiling soldier biographies. Her work resulted in VSC purchasing customized flag holders for the Daughters of 1812 to mark the graves of their cataloged soldiers.

"This past Memorial Day, American flags were inserted into the holders by the VFW," stated Summit County VSC Commissioner Arnon W. "Sonny" Cool. "Together, the joint effort resulted in a beautiful, bicentennial tribute."

Veterans of the War of 1812 are buried in the following Summit County communities: Akron (44), Bath Township (7), Boston Heights (11), Boston Township (11), Copley Township (32), Cuyahoga Falls (20), Green (5), Hudson (45), New Franklin (23), Northfield (26), Norton (14), Richfield (15), Springfield (19), Stow (28), Tallmadge (26) and Twinsburg (1).



For more information on the War of 1812 veteran graves in Summit County visit

www.ohiodaughters1812.org/ohio1812/graveindex. To learn more about the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission click on <http://www.warof1812.ohio.gov>.

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