



86th Annual Parade Invitation Letter Sponsored by: American Legion Post 51

The American Legion Post 51 is proud to announce our 86th Annual Americanism Day Parade. We would like to ask businesses, schools, organizations, churches, or small groups to come be a part of our Americanism Parade which will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7:00 pm. The parade line-up begins at 6:15 pm. We hope each and every one of you will take this opportunity to participate in our event this year and join us as we celebrate our history. We want to make this year's event bigger and better than ever as we come back from our devastating fire. There truly is no place like home!

During and following the coal strike of 1933 in Western Pennsylvania, there was considerable radical activity in the Coal Towns in Fayette County. When a group of communists asked permission to have a parade on May Day (to coincide with Moscow's annual May Day Parade), in April 1934 the Uniontown Police Department was faced with the probability of stirring up an incident that would cause trouble—whether it gave permission or refused it. If the communists marched, considering the temper of the district, there might be a riot; if the request was denied, there would be controversy.

Five Legionnaires of Lafayette Post 51, American Legion, Chief of Police A. W. Davis, Recruiting Sergeant James Smith, Matty Bain, Allen Parke and Mason McLaughlin offered an alternative to our town, an Americanism Day with speeches, a parade, and it would include everybody. In 1937, the state representatives from Fayette County secured the passage of a joint resolution in the legislature to set aside May First as Americanism Day throughout Pennsylvania by the Governor's Proclamation.

You are cordially invited to participate on this special occasion and show off your town! Parade entry forms will be available at our office located at 508 E. Main Street in Uniontown. If you have any questions you may call our office at 724-438-8041 and speak with Kathy 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Floats, Motorized Units, Marching and Walking Units are all needed to help make this parade the highlight and centerpiece of our community's history! We're looking for Boy & Girl Scouts, Grange Members, Vintage Vehicles, Farm Equipment, Antique Fire Fighting Equipment and more!

Also available, is our annual ad book. Your organization, business, etc. can place an ad along with your artwork in our ad book at a reasonable cost. There are various page sizes & pricing available. Many pay tribute in our book to loved ones who have passed away. Once again, you can contact our office for more information.

The cutoff date for both parade registration and the ad book is Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

It has taken time to achieve, but through the years this has been accomplished with the untiring efforts of the members of the American Legion, Lafayette Post 51, the cooperation of numerous other organizations, and the community in general. Our Americanism Day has set a pattern for all America to follow.

We thank all of you for your past participation.

We are looking forward to seeing you again this year!

Duty, Honor, Country,

Robert Doria, Commander