

## Ceremony Held At Fairview Cemetery

By Francine Fulton

Local Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) from Coatesville Senior High School recently gathered at Fairview

Cemetery, 786 Oak St., Coatesville, to place American flags on the grave-stones of those who served in the military. The event, which has taken place for more than 10 years, is held in conjunction with the observance of Memorial Day.

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*A memorial ceremony was held recently at Fairview Cemetery in Coatesville to coincide with Memorial Day. Attending the event were local Scouts, members of the Coatesville JROTC and members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Bradbury Camp 149, who dressed in period attire.*

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Participants in the ceremony on May 18 included members of Boy Scout Troop 116 and Cub Scout Pack 134 of Hibernia, Boy Scout Troop 117 of Coatesville and Venture Crew 117, which is a youth development program of the Boys Scouts that is open to both young men and women. Girls Scouts from Troop 4961 of Coatesville were also on hand.

Before replacing the old flags with new ones, there was a brief ceremony, which included the reading of the Pledge of Allegiance and the placing of a wreath at the cemetery's Civil War monument, which reads, "To those who served their country in the war that established

freedom and national unity, this monument is dedicated. 1861-1865."

There was also a moment of silence, followed by the placing of the flags. About 40 Scouts participated in the event, replacing more than 200 flags. The flags were placed in brass holders in front of the gravestones to indicate the burial locations of military veterans.

The flags were provided by members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Bradbury Camp 149, who wore period attire for the event. According to [www.bradbury149.org](http://www.bradbury149.org), the group is "a patriotic and educational organization dedicated to honoring the soldiers who fought to preserve the Union." The group honors all veterans by providing a color guard for memorial ceremonies, parades and living history programs, among

other activities.

Bradbury Camp 149 is composed of members from Chester and Delaware counties. Hereditary membership is available for those who can prove that they are descendants of Civil War soldiers who fought in the Union Army. Associate memberships for those without the connection are also available.

The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from September through June at 7 p.m. at the West Chester Municipal Building, 401 E. Gay St., West Chester. For more information, readers may visit the previously mentioned website.



*A wreath was placed at the pinnacle monument honoring veterans during a ceremony held recently at Fairview Cemetery in Coatesville.*