

Belnap Family Organization Dedication and Memorial at Phillips Cemetery
North East Township, Erie County, North East, Pennsylvania @12:00 P.M.

"Welcome, honored guests, families, and friends.

We are gathered here today not just to dedicate a monument,
but to anchor a piece of our shared history into the very ground we stand on.
We stand here at the intersection of our nation's past and the vibrant promise of our future."

"As we reflect on the sacrifices made by our Revolutionary War ancestors, it is easy to view them as non-existent in a distant past with no connection...
They were wives, mothers, fathers, merchants, and farmers who believed so deeply in the cause of liberty that they risked everything.
They planted the seed of a free nation. We gather here today to ensure that their quiet contributions, their courage, and their perseverance are never lost to the sands of time."
Today, we are doing something profoundly important.
We are building a bridge between the spirit of 1776 and the America of today, 2026, our 250th anniversary of our country's freedom.

This monument is not merely a stone; it is a physical reminder of our enduring commitment to God, home, and country.
It serves as a quiet refuge for reflection, a spark to ignite patriotism, and a teaching tool for the generations who will come long after us."

"But this dedication is more than just a ceremony; it is a promise.
It is a vow that we will continue to carry our ancestors' torches forward.
Let us look at this dedication today as a catalyst for our own service—whether through preserving history, promoting education, or supporting our veterans. Let us honor them not just with our words, but with our continued, intentional, and deliberate actions."

"May this monument stand as a beacon of unity, remembrance, and inspiration.

May it remind us that the liberties and values we hold dear today are the direct result of the brave men and women who were willing to face the fire.

May it forever inspire us to be engaged citizens who actively fulfill the promise of American democracy.

Thank you, and congratulations to the Belnap Organization on this beautiful achievement."

Sherry Lou Thomas-Schnarrs

Regent, Triangle Chapter, NSDAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)

North East, Erie County, Pennsylvania

State Chair for Pennsylvania State Society DAR – Community Service Awards