



Parade Invitation Letter

Sponsored by:

American Legion Post 51

During and following the coal strike of 1933 in Western Pennsylvania, there were 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.

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.

The American Legion Post 51 is excited to announce our 84th Annual Americanism Day Parade. We would like to take this time to invite our community to participate in what we believe will be one of our most exciting parades! We hope each and every one of you will take this the opportunity to participate in this event and join us as we celebrate the town we call home and the 84th Annual Americanism Day Parade. The parade is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017 and the parade line-up begins at 6:15 pm.

You are cordially invited to participate on this special occasion and show off your town! Please complete entry forms available at our office located at 508 E. Main Street Uniontown or call our office at 724-438-8041 and speak with Kathy 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will also hang entry forms on the bulletin board at the Post Office located on Fayette Street. We would love to see numerous floats entered this year!

Also available, we have 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.

We thank all of you for your past participation.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Duty, Honor, Country,

Robert Doria, Commander