



The Great Allentown Fair and Kitchen Magic Honor Local Veteran as 2026 Hometown Hero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALLENTOWN, PA — The Great Allentown Fair, in partnership with Kitchen Magic, honored United States Marine Corps veteran Sergeant Fred G. Gould Jr. as the recipient of the 2026 Hometown Hero Award during Red, White & THANK YOU! Military Appreciation Day on Sunday, September 6, at The Great Allentown Fair.

The Hometown Hero Award recognizes a local service member or veteran whose commitment to service extends beyond the uniform and continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Gould served the nation as a United States Marine and, during the presidency of Jimmy Carter, had the extraordinary honor of serving on Presidential Detail. Among his duties, Gould stood post at the White House and served in the ceremonial role of saluting President Carter as the President arrived and departed aboard the presidential Marine helicopter.

Following his military service, Gould carried that same commitment home to the Lehigh Valley.

As a 1996 graduate of DeSales University, Gould currently serves as Adjutant of Marine Corps League Bethlehem Detachment #284. He is also actively involved with the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council's Veteran Visitation Program, helping ensure that veterans living in senior communities throughout the region know they are remembered and appreciated.

His service has also come full circle at DeSales University, where Gould and his wife, Tammey, generously volunteer with DeSales Veterans and Military Services. Together, they give their time during Friday Drop-In clinics and create works of art that help raise funds for the DeSales Veterans Scholarship and nonprofit organizations serving veterans and military-connected families throughout the Lehigh Valley.

The Hometown Hero Award was presented by The Great Allentown Fair and Kitchen Magic, which helped make Red, White & THANK YOU! Military Appreciation Day possible. Joey Piazza of Kitchen Magic joined

Fair representatives in presenting the award, while Wendy Badman, Director of Veterans and Military Services at DeSales University, introduced Gould and shared his story with those gathered for the ceremony. DeSales University's Veterans and Military Services also played an important role throughout the day as the Fair's Community and Military Engagement Partner.

The ceremony also welcomed 2025 Hometown Hero Frederic Albert Reed Jr., who led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Lisa-Jon Lepeta, USDA Management Assistant and Pennsylvania Veterans Special Emphasis Program Manager, who performed the National Anthem. Lepeta also serves as the Fair's Ag-Ed and FFA Superintendent.

"From standing watch at the White House as a young Marine to standing beside his fellow veterans here at home, Fred has made service a continuing part of his life," said Wendy Badman, Director of Veterans and Military Services for DeSales University.

Red, White & THANK YOU! Military Appreciation Day welcomed service members and veterans with complimentary Fair admission and featured special programming recognizing those who have served.

Gould's recognition as the 2026 Hometown Hero celebrates not only his service as a United States Marine, but the decades of continued service, volunteerism and commitment he has given to veterans and military-connected families throughout the Lehigh Valley.

Photo Caption: 2026 Hometown Hero Award recipient Sergeant Fred G. Gould Jr. is joined by (pictured from left): Staci Horvath, representing The Great Allentown Fair; 2025 Hometown Hero Frederic Albert Reed Jr.; 2026 Hometown Hero Sergeant Fred G. Gould Jr.; Tammey Gould; Joey Piazza, representing Kitchen Magic; and Wendy Badman of DeSales University.

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