

Rae Roeder: Honorary Member American Legion Post 76

In December 2018, the members of American Legion Post 76 posthumously recognized Rae Roeder with an 'Honorary Membership' and a gilt star on the American Legion Centennial Memorial for her commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of our country's veterans and active duty military. Ms. Roeder was a prime mover behind the Township's annual Memorial Day ceremony and parade, and in establishing the Township's Veterans Day ceremony. She encouraged the Township Council to establish the first Veterans Day ceremony in 1995 and the first Memorial Day parade in 1996. She also helped organize and lead the parade for many years.



Pictured above, Mrs. Roeder was moved to tears in a 2010 ceremony with then-council president George Borek (left) and then-Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh honoring her for her years of work organizing the annual Memorial Day parade. Mrs. Roeder, who died on December 29, 2017, at the age of 73, was a long-time member of township council who served as president and vice president of the body.

Rae Roeder grew up in the Penns Neck area of West Windsor Township, where she lived for most of her life. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and education from Rider University (then Rider College) and a master's degree in education at East Tennessee State University, where she served as a charter

member of the National Teacher Corps, newly established by then-President Lyndon Johnson. She subsequently taught at Woodford County Junior High School in Versailles, Kentucky, the Vail-Deane School in Elizabeth and Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset. In the 1980s, she began her work on behalf of state workers of New Jersey. She started in the Office of Equal Education Opportunity and continued in the Office of Facilities Planning in the state Department of Education.

In 1996 she was elected president of state workers' union, Communication Workers of America Local 1033, and that role took up an increasing amount of her time. She served as president of the union for five terms, until her retirement in 2012.

During his speech after being sworn in on New Year's Day 2018, Mayor Hemant Marathe paid tribute to Roeder. "Rae saw herself as the advocate of the common man in that she always seemed willing to extend herself on behalf of others regardless of the politics."

In recognition to Rae Roeder's commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of our country's veterans and active duty military, and her contributions to our community, American Legion Post 76 is pleased to add a gilt star to the American Legion Centennial Memorial.

Rae Roeder's husband, John Roeder, incised the gilt star on the American Legion Centennial Memorial cenotaph during the 2019 Memorial Day ceremony.