

**COMMEMORATION OF THE DARR MINE ACCIDENT OF 1907 IN
PENNSYLVANIA
*FACT SHEET***

WHAT

A commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the disaster at the Darr Mine in Pennsylvania will be held, sponsored by six Hungarian organizations and the local community.

WHY

On December 19, 1907, an explosion in the Darr Mine, at Rostraver, Pennsylvania, took the lives of 239 men and teenage boys. The mining disaster is the worst in the history of Pennsylvania and the second worst in the history of the United States. In the explosion, most of those killed were Hungarian immigrant laborers. Countless number of immigrants came to America seeking a better life for their families, only to die prematurely in tragic ways. Because of the explosion of December 19, 1907, and because of similar tragedies, mine safety became a public issue. New laws, policies and procedures, designed to better safeguard the lives of those working underground, were developed for the mining industry. Much has changed in American society since the explosion a hundred years ago and we tend to forget important events of the past. By commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine disaster, the Hungarian organizations planning the event declare that “we remember this important historic event and all those who were affected by it. We affirm that the sacrifices were not in vain. We remember Darr Mine in order to reaffirm our nation’s focus on safety in the workplace. And we pledge ourselves to continue working together for this cause and for the good of humankind.”

WHEN

September 29, 2007; 11:00 a.m.

WHERE

Olive Branch Cemetery and neighboring church, Olive Branch Baptist Church, 981 State Route, Van Meter PA 15012 (Directions below.)

SPONSORS OF THE COMMEMORATION

American Hungarian Federation
Bethlen Communities, Ligonier, Pennsylvania
Calvin Synod of the United Church of Christ
Hungarian Reformed Church of America
Hungarian Reformed Federation of America
William Penn Association

PROGRAM

Opening prayers

American and Hungarian national anthems

Remarks by representatives of the sponsors, Federal and State officials, union representatives

Wreath laying ceremony at cemetery

Reception at Holiday Inn in Belle Haven

Visit to Darr Mine site (Optional)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE DARR MINE EXPLOSION

http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org/news_darrmine.htm

www.patheoldminer.rootsweb.com/darr2.html

www.usmra.com/saxsewell/darr.htm

www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=9807&subjectID

(Or Google “Darr Mine Disaster” and click on links.)

CONTACT PERSONS

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DIRECTIONS

From Pittsburgh to Ligonier (Ramada Inn)

From Pittsburgh International Airport:

Take PA-60 toward Pittsburgh/Pennsylvania Turnpike/I-79 (7 miles)

Merge onto US-22 E/US-30 E (10 miles)

Merge onto I-376 E/US-22 E via Exit 6A toward Monroeville (14 miles)

Take I-76 E/Pennsylvania Turnpike (34 miles, toll)

Follow directions “From the Pennsylvania Turnpike” below

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike:

Follow the turnpike to Donegal, Exit 91

Turn left onto PA-31 E (.1 miles)

Turn left onto PA-711/Ligonier Street; continue to follow PA-711 N (12 miles)

Turn left onto W. Loyalhanna Street (Ramada Inn) (0.1miles)

From Ligonier to Belle Vernon (Holiday Inn, Cemetery, Baptist Church)

From Ligonier (Ramada Inn) to Belle Vernon (Holiday Inn):

Turn right onto US-30W/Lincoln Highway (16.5 miles)

Turn slight left to stay on US-30 W (2.2 miles)

Merge onto US 119 S toward Connellsville (5.2 miles)

Merge onto New Stanton Youngwood Rd. (0.5 miles)

New Stanton Youngwood Rd. becomes I-70 W (10.9 miles)

Merge onto PA-51 S via Exit 46A toward Uniontown (0.3 miles)

Turn right onto Finley Rd. (0.3 miles)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Ramada Inn

216 West Loyalhanna Street, Ligonier, Pa., 15658; 724-238-9545

(Directions above.)

Holiday Inn

827 Finley Road, Belle Vernon, Pa., 15012; 724-929-4600

(Directions above.)

MEETING PLACE

Those participating in the program (speakers/organizers) will meet at 10 a.m. in the lobby of the Holiday Inn, 827 Finley Road, Belle Vernon, PA. Guests will proceed to the nearby Olive Branch Baptist Church, 981 State Route, Van Meter, PA., for the 11 a.m. event.

