



# South Hills Veterans Honor Guard



On Monday, March 9, 2015, after 4 months of planning with the County, the County Manager under the direction of County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced that the Memorial Day Banner Presentation Ceremony at the South Park Fairgrounds for those Killed in Action during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, would no longer be supported by the County.

At this time we were officially informed that this would not be a County Event but a Private Event which would make us responsible for \$7,000. in event costs covering the County's mandatory participation of the County Police to patrol the event and Public Works manpower in hanging the 27 privately donated County banners of those Killed in Action during these campaigns along with 24 privately donated County banners of those Killed in Action at the circle on Corrigan Drive from previous wars...

In light of this most unforeseen and unexpected withdrawal of County support, and with our deepest regrets, we must inform you that we have no choice but to cancel the ceremony at the County's South Park Fairgrounds.

We sincerely apologize to those families to be honored and the fine Military Organizations that were to be involved for this sudden turn of events, however, it's not over.

We ask you to be part of and help us contact the American Legions, VFW's and local community councils and Mayors to accept the banners for those Killed in Action from their community and include a dedication to the KIA families during their 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony.

Your Community Dedication may not be as elaborate as what we had planned, but just might be more meaningful to the families, as it's coming from their friends, neighbors and from their community acknowledging their loss and showing the respect that they'll always deserve.

Thank You for your time and we hope to talk to you soon about your community's participation in this most important and honorable dedication ceremony. Please email us at [event@troopbanners.com](mailto:event@troopbanners.com) to arrange to have the banners of your Community's resident that was Killed in Action dropped off or picked up as soon as possible. Until then then the committee will arrange distribution of banners to local organizations.

Sincerely Yours

*The KIA Banner Dedication Committee*

03/12/2015