



*Dedication  
of an  
Official State Historical Marker  
Commemorating  
the  
Johnsville  
Naval Air Development Center*

*Veterans' Day  
Wednesday, November 11, 1998  
11 AM*

*Village of Johnsville  
Warminster Township, Pennsylvania*

*Sponsored by the  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission  
Craven Hall Historical Society  
Warminster Township  
Historical Preservation Board*

*Marker Text:*

## JOHNSVILLE NAVAL AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**This site was acquired by the U.S. Navy during World War II from the Brewster Aircraft Corporation; it served as a strategic locale for weapons development and testing of modern aircraft. Later, it was a training facility for America's Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space programs.**

HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 1998

### JOHNSVILLE NAVAL AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER HISTORY

*Following the United States entry into World War II in 1941, the US Navy acquired these facilities from the Brewster Aircraft Corporation. By 1947, the facility was converted into the US Naval Air Development Station; an independent facility under the US Navy and the Bureau of Aeronautics. A new designation assigned the facility mission to perform development functions in the fields of aviation electronics, pilotless aircraft and aviation armament. In addition the Aviation Medical Acceleration Laboratory was added to pursue research on the effects of high performance aircraft on pilots and the world's largest human centrifuge was installed in 1952; this device would prove invaluable as America expanded its space program. By 1955, the site became known as the Johnsville Naval Air Development Center.*

*In addition, to the development of a series of modern naval aircraft, Johnsville proved itself a vital role as part of America's Space Program. The X-15, and the Project Mercury, Gemini and Apollo Program personnel and astronauts, including John Glenn & Neil Armstrong, all trained at this facility. The astronauts heavily utilized the facilities and equipment at Johnsville which played an important role in America's quest to put a man on the Moon.*

## Program

<i>Master of Ceremonies</i>	<i>Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick Vice President, Craven Hull Historical Society Chairman, Warminster Township Historical Preservation Board</i>
<i>Pledge of Allegiance</i>	<i>Willow Grove Naval Air Station Color Guard</i>
<i>“America”</i>	<i>William Tennent High School Madrigal Singers</i>
<i>Greetings</i>	<i>Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick  Nancy D. Kolb, Commissioner Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  Robert J. Camarata, Township Munuger Township of Warminster  Kathleen Dominick, Chairperson Federal Lands Reuse Authority of Bucks County</i>
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Max Schwartz, Retired Munuger Naval Air Development Center 1944-80</i>
<i>Unveiling of Marker</i>	<i>Heidi Pfeiffer, President Craven Hull Historical Society  Bernice Graeter-Reardon, Chairperson Warminster Township Historical Preservation Board</i>
<i>Closing Reflections</i>	<i>Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	<i>William Tennent High School Singers</i>

*Everyone is invited to Craven Hull for light refreshments generously donated by Memorable Affairs Catering of Warminster.*

## IN APPRECIATION

**The Craven Hall Historical Society and the Warminster Township Historical Preservation Board** would like to offer its many thanks to the following institutions for their generous financial support of this historical marker:

**The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** *is the Commonwealth's memory, telling Pennsylvania's story, safeguarding the tangible remains of our past, and serving present and future generations as the state's official history agency.*

**The Federal Lands Reuse Authority of Bucks County** *which is redeveloping the former Naval Air Development Center, now known as the North American Technology Center. Its mission is to implement a Community Reuse Plan that will create jobs and a new tax base for the community*

**The Greater Warminster Chamber of Commerce** *which serves Warminster, Warrington, Warwick, Northampton, Ivyland, Southampton and Eastern Montgomery County.*

**A very special thank is also given to:**

*Memorable affairs Catering of Warminster*

*Astro Printing of Warminster*

*Township of Warminster Public Works Department*

*Township of Warminster Police Department*

*The Johnsville Armed Services Museum*

*William Tennent High School Madrigal Singers*

*Sharon L. Morrison, Choral Music Director*

*State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf*

*State Representative Thomas W. Druce*

*State Representative Roy Reinard*

*Warminster Township Manager Robert J. Camarata*

*Warminster Township Zoning Officer Thomas Thern*

**Craven Hall Historical Society**

*Established in 1978 to save historic Craven Hall, this nonprofit volunteer organization is dedicated to preserving und restoring this part of Warminster Township's proud heritage. For information, please call (215)675-4698.*

**Warminster Township Historical Preservation Board**

*A part of the local township government which serves to advise Warminster Township and its residents on issues of historical preservation.*