Thank you Wayne Band for coming out today for such an important gathering.

Waynesboro should consider itself blessed to have such a dedicated group to perform locally at holidays and patriotic events.

I’m Bill Kohler, director of Main Street Waynesboro. It’s a pleasure and honor to be a part of today’s ceremony and this program.

Welcome to everyone here today at Main Street Park. Welcome to friends, family, elected officials, Mainstreet staff and volunteers and even some of the veterans who are pictured on the banners hanging along Main Street from Clayton Avenue to Grant Street.

So, I mentioned the word important. By definition, important means the following: “of great significance or value; likely to have a profound effect on success, survival, or well-being.”

Those words really hit home today as we recognize more than 80 Waynesboro area veterans with banners hanging throughout the downtown.

This gathering is important because we recognize the important things these veterans did for their country. Their deeds – although perhaps small in the grand scheme of things – are indeed of great significance and value. Their sacrifices, their country before self, their dedication to the cause, paved the way for many of the important things we hold so dear in this country, like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and simple freedoms like this gathering today in this beautiful park in the heart of our downtown.

Some of the important persons honored on these banners are here today. Could you please stand or wave to be recognized. Thank you.

Some became servers of their country by choice, some by the draft, some by both. Some joined for the search of a better life or potential career. Whatever the case or the reason, our well-being – as mentioned in the definition – and our survival are because of their very important actions.

For that, I again say thank you to them and to the families who honored them, thank you to Angela Smith for all her tireless efforts making this program a success, thank you to our friends from the Navy Seabees construction battalion who helped hang up the banners and the Borough of Waynesboro for allowing us to use their light poles.

Here is Mayor Richard A. Starliper to say a few words.

Next is Angela Smith who will read the names of all of the veterans honored today.

Next, I invite any of the family members or friends to come up and say a few words about the veterans they honored on the banners.

Final reminder: In the next few weeks, we will have bios of many of the veterans on our website, mainstreetwaynesboro.org. We will notify the sponsors when the site is up and running.

Thank you everyone for coming. The banners will be hanging until November 12.