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**Buchanan remembered at 198th birthday rites**

James Buchanan's 198th birthday was marked at Woodward Hill Cemetery on Sunday with tradition, pomp and a little bit of fun.

About 100 people gathered to pay tribute to Buchanan, the 15th president and the only Pennsylvanian to ever occupy the White House.

Under bright skies, an 18-piece Army band played, a Boy Scout troop led the audience in the pledge of allegiance, Lancaster Mayor Arthur Morris made brief remarks and a group dressed as 19th century soldiers fired three volleys from their muzzleloaders.

The 45-minute ceremony also featured the annual wreath laying ceremony at Buchanan's grave.

Sunday's event was hosted by the Lancaster Pilot Club and the Army Garrison at Fort Indiantown Gap. President George Bush was represented at the ceremony by Garrison Commander Col. David G. Bell.

The Army presented a certificate of appreciation to Madalynn Johnson, a veteran Pilot Club member, for her yearly help in setting up the Buchanan tribute.

During his speech, Morris said Buchanan's ambitious pursuit of education and achievement "is an inspiration for today's young people."

Bell and the Pilot Club President Anne Muehleisen laid the wreath on the grave. They were accompanied by Buchanan Elementary School students Allison Young and Kevin Mumma.

Prior to the playing of "Taps," the Lancaster Fencibles, dressed in mid-1800s uniforms, fired a three-round volley with their muzzleloading rifles.

The Lancaster Fencibles is a group of 20 volunteers from Lancaster, York and Lebanon. Buchanan's official color guard during his presidency was called the Fencibles.

Following the official ceremony, Army band leader Sgt. Major Lawrence Suino handed the baton to city resident Ruth Holzwarth, who led the band in "Americans We."

Suino asked her to conduct after she approached the sergeant major and praised the band.

The Pilot Club raised funds in 1960 to restore Buchanan's gravesite, which had fallen into disrepair.

[photo caption]

Col. David G. Bell, left, and Pilot Club President Anne Muehleisen, lay the wreath at James Buchanan's gravesite on Sunday. Accompanying the two are Buchanan Elementary School students Allison Young and Kevin Mumma. About 100 people attended the Woodward Hill Cemetery ceremony.

