

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 8, 2025**

**HISTORY MAKERS TO BE HONORED
RAY BENTLEY, JIM MOORE AND FRENCH & PICKERING CREEKS CONSERVATION TRUST
WILL BE RECIPIENTS OF THE HISTORY MAKER AWARDS**

West Chester, PA - The Chester County History Center (CCHC) will host its 2025 History Maker Awards ceremony, honoring Mr. Ray Bentley, Mr. Jim Moore, and the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. The honorees are intertwined in a recent historical discovery that puts the Revolutionary War right in the center of the narrative.

In 2022, Ray Bentley and Jim Moore, working with the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, unearthed four 18th-century cannons on the historic Warwick Furnace property. These massive artifacts, each weighing over 4,500 pounds, were originally cast at Warwick Furnace to support the Continental Army and were buried to prevent British forces from capturing them during the 1777 campaign.

Mr. Jim Moore founded Great Marsh Institute (2018) with a mission of promoting science and education at Great Marsh. He is very active in land preservation and has served on the board of French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust (2008). He is a volunteer technical advisor to the North East Motus Collaboration and has dedicated countless hours to environmental conservation efforts throughout Chester County. He is one of the founders on Bentley Systems.

Mr. Ray Bentley has been involved with land conservation and local charities for many years and was instrumental –along with wife Terry– in assisting the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust in establishing the Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve where the Warwick Furnace Cannons were located. His commitment to preserving Chester County's natural and historical heritage spans decades of dedicated service.

The French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, established in 1967, has protected over 12,500 acres of open space in northern Chester County through conservation easements, public preserves, and educational initiatives that connect citizens with their natural environment.

The Chester County History Center will become the permanent home of one of these historic cannons as part of its permanent collection, ensuring this significant artifact remains accessible to the public and future generations.

"These extraordinary cannons represent not just a physical connection to our Revolutionary past, but a testament to the power of community collaboration in preserving our shared heritage," says Conor Hepp, President of CCHC. "The dedication shown by our honorees bridges centuries of Chester County history and ensures that future generations will have tangible connections to the sacrifices made during America's founding struggle for independence."

The History Maker Awards ceremony will take place on Friday, April 25 at 6:00PM at the Chester County History Center. Tickets are can be purchased at the History Center's website mycchc.org. All proceeds support the History Center's educational programs and collections preservation efforts.

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Attached Image:

CCHC_Chester_County_Cannons_03.JPG – In the Picture Holly Stoviak, CCHC's Board Chair & Jim Moore.

CCHC_Chester_County_Cannons_04.JPG – In the Picture Holly Stoviak, CCHC's Board Chair, Conor Hepp, CCHC's President, & Jim Moore.

CCHC_Chester_County_Cannons_06.JPG

Ray Bentley_01

Jim Moore_02