



LEHIGH VALLEY NEWS

Vets angry Whitehall mayor temporarily took down POW/MIA flag Replaced with Syrian flag for Syrian Independence Day on April 18

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Several local veterans are calling out Whitehall Township officials for allowing a Syrian flag raising ceremony on municipal property.

WHITEHALL, Pa. - Mayor Ed Hozza of Whitehall Township in Lehigh County faced a small army of hostile military veterans during Monday night's township commissioners meeting.

They were angry because the mayor had a POW/MIA flag taken down from a flag pole so a Syrian flag-raising event could be held outside the township building on April 18.

Some called for Hozza to resign.

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 - [Local Syrians want to raise flag at Allentown city hall](#)
- One man claimed he violated federal laws.
- Another compared him to "Hanoi Jane," a name given to actress Jane Fonda, who will never be forgiven by many vets for what they consider her traitorous visit to North Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

The attack on Hozza came just a week before the primary election, where he faces a challenge in his re-election bid from fellow Democrat Jerry Palagonia, a township commissioner who was at the meeting.

After the meeting, when asked if it was a coincidence that the issue erupted just before the primary, Hozza chose not to respond directly.

But he added there is a history going back 25 years of heated controversy at the last board of commissioners meeting just before a Democratic primary for township executive or mayor.

At times, Monday night's meeting threatened to get completely out of control. No one gavelled for order.

The meeting room was filled way over capacity, which Hozza later put at 55. Many people filled the seats and stood along the walls. Some sat on the podium right in front of the dais. Others simply sat on the floor.

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The veterans want official township action so the POW flag is never again taken down.

"It's going to happen," promised Linda Snyder, president of the township commissioners.

Township resident Kevin Seyfried declared the only time the POW/MIA flag is allowed to come down "is when all 88,000 POWs and MIAs return home."

He also maintained no other flag is allowed to fly on the same pole as the American flag.

And he said the U.S. State Department considers Syria a terrorist-supporting country — yet its flag was placed underneath the American flag at the April 18 program.

Seyfried asked township commissioners to take formal action so the POW flag "never comes down again."

He also wanted "a public apology from all who were involved on April 18 to POWs, MIAs, their families, the veterans, the people of this township and the men and women serving our country today."

Seyfried was loudly cheered and applauded.

Resident Don Sotak, Jr., claimed Hozza broke three federal laws on April 18.

"Arrest him!" yelled one person.

"Lock him up!" yelled another.

"He wanted the Syrian votes," said a woman.

Sotak maintained it's a federal offense to fly the flag of another country on the same pole as the U.S. flag or to take down the POW flag.

He also accused the mayor of failing to uphold constitutional laws as he swore to do when he took office.

"How do you plea?" demanded someone in the audience.

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HARRISBURG, Pa.,
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Capital BlueCross showcases digital health evolution at annual health care forums
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Frank Hill · Top Commenter · National Council of Strength and Fitness

And to think that some of you actually voted for this traitor. People do indeed get the government they deserve.

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George Rose · Marple Newtown Senior High School

And this bum will be re-elected. Just watch.

Reply · Like · 1 · 21 hours ago



Ragen Rae · Shawnee State University

THERE SHOULD BE NO FLAG BUT OURS FLYING IN THIS COUNTRY. IS ALL OF PENNSYLVANIA SMOKING CRACK? You should all be whipped by a BUNCH OF VETERANS!

Reply · Like · Yesterday at 12:28pm



Mary Lou Kashlak Harvan · Works at Teaching Schools

This is America, those Veterans died & sacrificed for this country. If they do this for one group then they have to do it for everyone, every country, every religious group etc. God Bless America. They can fly their own flag at their church or social hall. Do Syrians fly our flag in their country? Peace on Earth but lets remember respect for this country. Innocent ppl suffer everywhere, we have enough war everywhere as well, but this is America! What happened to respect for our own ?

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On this day: May 14

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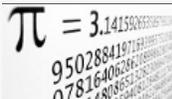
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