The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 26 OF 2019

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1954 the United States Congress passed the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, which sought cooperation between the Federal Government, states, and localities to prevent flood damages; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized to construct flood protection measures to prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages; further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water; and further the conservation and use of land; and

WHEREAS, the project was authorized as Blanchard Dam and Reservoir and was designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. It acts as a comprehensive flood risk management plan for communities in the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the dam was renamed in 1967 in memory of Private First Class Foster Joseph Sayers, a former resident of Centre County, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic service as a U.S. Army machine gunner in World War II; and

WHEREAS, construction was completed in 1969 at a Federal cost of $30.8 million. The dam is of earth fill construction with a maximum height of 100 feet above the streambed and a top length of 6,835 feet. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 99,000 acre-feet at spillway crest, controls drainage of 339 square miles, and maintains a pool of 1,730 acres during the recreation season; and

WHEREAS, the Foster Joseph Sayers Dam is operated and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. Since its completion in 1969, the dam has prevented more than $212.6 million in flood damages for downstream communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre County Board of Commissioners does hereby commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Foster Joseph Sayers Dam and recognizes the Army Corps of Engineers for their operation and maintenance of this critical piece of infrastructure.

ADOPTED this 17th day of September 2019.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Michael Pipe, Chair

Mark Higgins, Vice Chair

Steven G. Dershem

ATTEST:

Margaret N. Gray, Administrator