



Gretna Chronicles

Gretna, Louisiana

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June, 2026

Patriotic Old-Fashioned Parade & Party

As Jefferson Parish celebrates America's 250th Birthday like the rest of the country, plans are being made for a special "Flag Day," in Downtown Gretna on Sunday, June 14, 2026!

Besides a Patriotic Parade, and you know Gretna is a great place for a parade, there will be much more happening as posted on the Schedule for Flag Day listed at right. Some things mentioned include: USA Field Day with Relay Races & Crafts, Opening Ceremony with Performance by the U. S. Marine Band, a Classic Automobile Show, a JPAWS Adoption Event and Live Music!

The parade will pass in front of our GHS Complex on Lafayette Street in honor of the Louisiana State Fire Museum, and the old pumper will be in the parade to show off! It's not a "throw me something, Mister" type of parade, but more like those in 1776 when folks joined the parade and were excited for the sights and comradeship when they just stopped everything else to have a good time!

Members of GHS are asked to do dress-up like back in those days and spend the day out and about enjoying the parade together!



Congrats to Our Prez!

Congratulations to GHS President Val Coles who was recipient of the coveted C. W. Cox Enhancement Award for 2026. The award was in recognition of her leadership, friendship, and humanitarianism to our great city of Gretna.

Besides decades of volunteering in church, city and civic organizations, she has held office or served on boards of most. In addition to being GHS president, she is president of Gretna Community Association and chairs the annual Gretna Prayer Dinner. Val is also presently serving as Secretary of German-American Cultural Center, Treasurer of the SJ St Vincent DePaul Chapter and Treasurer of the Magnificat Westbank Chapter.

At St Joseph Church, she is a member of the SJ Women's Club, a leader of the annual SJ Women's Retreat, is a money counter and Head Scorekeeper for the annual Chili Cookoff. Besides many other church programs, she is a member of Les Dames De Timberlane and the Jefferson Parish Historical Society. She trudges along at Gretna Fest, German Maifest, the Living Nativity and anything else happening in Gretna!



Another interesting fact of her genuineness and generosity, is that she is a longtime blood donor in the community since 1977 who has donated over 25 GALLONS of her blood in 50 years of donating!!

The Cox Outstanding Service Award 2026 was presented to Gretna District 1 Councilman Rudy Smith. Besides serving his constituents, he can be seen at all city events supporting whatever cause is needed. The councilman is a devout runner and star athlete. For many years, he has competed in countless triathlons, including internationally in World Championships as a member of the USA team.



Crawfish Time! Yum!

Last month's annual Crawfish Boil was a huge success, the largest ever with 139 in attendance! The mudbugs were perfectly cooked and the desserts donated by our members were delicious. Thanks to all who brought desserts!

Welcome New Members

David Colvin
Sal Buffone
Alvin Damere
Patsy Ward
Newell Ward Jr.

Welcome Back

Carol Ferniz

CALENDAR

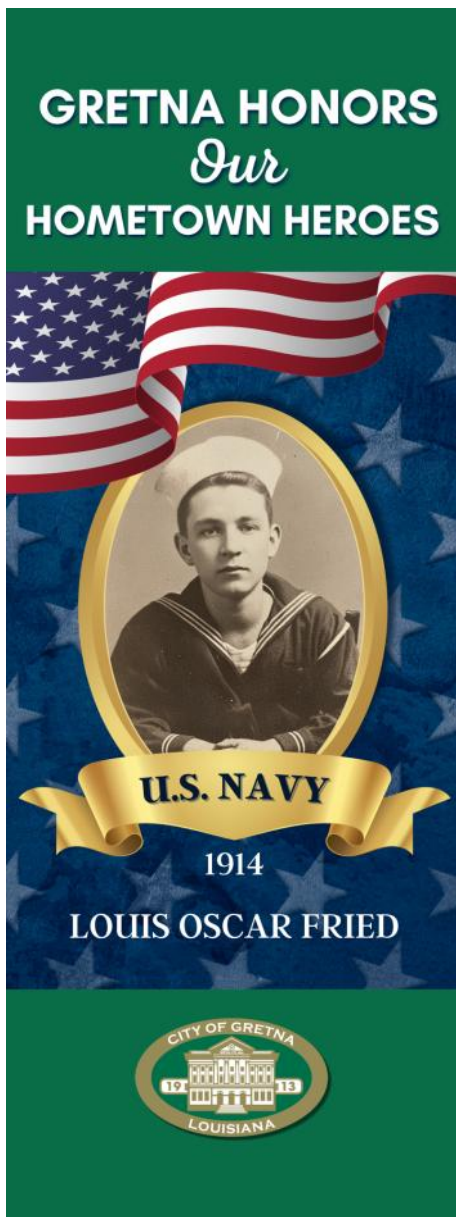
- June 11** @6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym. Speaker is Gerilynn Faulstich—"Mr. Bingle."
July 9 @6 pm Membership Meeting at St. Joseph Gym.
August 13 @6 pm Wine Tasting — Ticketed Event, at St. Joseph Gym.



Times Past – GHS Supports Gretna Heroes!

By Stephanie Dieterich

GHS participated in the “Honor our Hometown Heroes” program by purchasing three banners that are now hanging in downtown Gretna as we celebrate American’s 250th Birthday! The banners honor three hometown boys who gave their all in different wars, **Louis Oscar Fried** in the Battle of Vera Cruz, **Wilhelm Karl Weyer** in World War I and **John P. Ray Jr.** in World War II. Stay tuned for more details to come about these Gretna guys!



Gretna Chronicles succeeds the GHS Newsletter and the Gretna Historical Society Newsletter as the official source of news for the general membership of the Gretna Historical Society.

Gretna Historical Society

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Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex

1840s Strehle Family Cottage, 1859 David Crockett
Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Fire Station (now Louisiana Fire
Museum), 1840s White Family Cottage

Gretna Chronicles

is published for the members and friends of GHS

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ABOUT THE GHS AND HOW TO JOIN

The Gretna Historical Society was founded in Gretna, Louisiana, in 1969, by Lloyd E. Gomez (insurance man, volunteer firefighter, and community activist), who descended from Gretna pioneers, German immigrants Claudius and Catherine Nuss Strehle. The Society's articles of incorporation were drafted by Gretna attorney Everette F. Gauthreaux and signed in his law office on October 26, 1969. Today, the GHS operates the Gretna Historical Society Museum Complex at the corner of Lafayette Street at Second. It consists of three 19th century Creole cottages, a blacksmith shop, and the Louisiana Fire Museum. The GHS also owns and maintains the caboose and train depot on Huey P. Long Avenue at Fourth Street.

There are no requirements for membership in the GHS, other than the timely payment of annual membership dues of \$30 per person. Monthly meetings are held at the St. Joseph Complex Gym at 7th and Newton Streets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The society's newsletter, *Gretna Chronicles*, is published monthly and mailed or emailed to all members.

Gretna Historical Society

<https://www.gretnahistoricalsociety.org/>

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Blaine Daigle.....Vice President

Jeannie Radosta.....Recording Secretary

Holly Williams.....Corresponding Secretary

Sarah Daigle.....Treasurer

**Stephanie Dieterich and Lisa LaFrance.....Historians/
Archivists**

Sylvia SchwarzParliamentarian

Judy LeBlanc.....Sergeant-at-Arms

M. Helen Williams.....Board Member-Publicity

Paul Coles.....Board Member-Program Director

Dwight Maness.....Board Member

Rene Poche.....Board Member