



WILKES UNIVERSITY'S SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL
Spring Commencement
FOR THE CONFERRING OF GRADUATE DEGREES

Saturday, May Sixteenth
Two-thousand and fifteen • 10 a.m.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

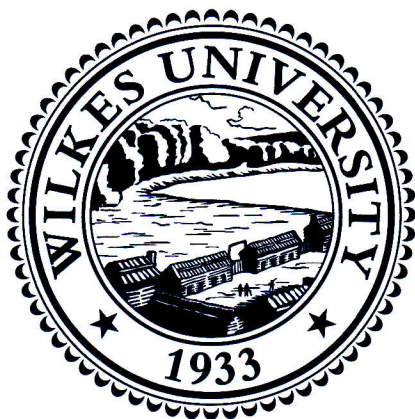
O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched,
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?

*Words by Francis Scott Key
Arranged by John Philip Sousa
Harmonized by Walter Damrosch*

ALMA MATER

*Wilkes, our Alma Mater,
We pledge our hearts to thee,
Honor, faith, and courage,
Truth and loyalty,
In our work and in our pleasure,
Guide us as a friend;
We shall always love thee,
Loyal to the end.
Thou shalt lead us onward
In search of finer things.
May we find the wisdom
That thy spirit brings.
May our deeds of love and service
Ever swell thy fame —
Wilkes, we stand to greet thee!
Glory to thy name.*

Words and Music by Eleanor C. Farley



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Spring Commencement

Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL

Entry and March of the Peers from Iolanthe Arthur Sullivan
(The audience is requested to rise as the procession begins.)

WELCOME ANNE A. SKLEDER
Senior Vice President and Provost

INVOCATION CAITLIN CZECH
Coordinator, Campus Interfaith

The Star-Spangled Banner *Words by Francis Scott Key*
(The words to *The Star-Spangled Banner* are printed on the inside front cover of the program.
The audience is requested to stand and sing the National Anthem with the chorus and band.)

Gaudeamus Igitur *Traditional*

GREETINGS ELIZABETH A. SLAUGHTER '68
Member, Board of Trustees

JONATHAN D. FERENCE
Chair, Faculty Affairs Council
Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice

NATHANIEL WILLIAM JABJINIAK
Member of the Class of 2015

Order of Exercises

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.....SENATOR JOHN T. YUDICHAK
Pennsylvania State Senate, Representing the 14th District

THE CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES.....PATRICK F. LEAHY

ALUMNI INDUCTION.....ELLEN C. HALL '71
Vice President, Wilkes University Alumni Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....PATRICK F. LEAHY
President

Alma Mater.....Eleanor C. Farley
Arrangement, Earl D. Orcutt '69

*(The words to the Alma Mater are printed on the inside front cover of the program.
The audience is requested to stand and join in the singing.)*

BENEDICTION.....CAITLIN CZEH
Coordinator, Campus Interfaith

RECESSIONAL
March of the Belgian Paratroopers..... Pierre Leemans

Music Provided By:

*Wilkes University Commencement Band
Dr. Philip G. Simon, Conductor*

*Wilkes University Commencement Choir
Dr. Steven Thomas, Conductor*

Ceremony Interpreted By:

*Jamie Lynne Hill
360 Translations International, Inc.*

SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY

SENATOR JOHN T. YUDICHAK

State Senator John T. Yudichak of the 14th Senatorial District is highly regarded as an effective and independent advocate for the people of Pennsylvania for more than a decade. While Senator Yudichak's dedication to building the economy, protecting the environment, helping senior citizens and keeping communities safe has had broad effects across the Commonwealth, the senator's most important work continues to be done in communities throughout Carbon, Luzerne and Monroe counties.

The senator was instrumental in creating the \$4 million Luzerne County Small Business Loan Program that aided in recovery following 2011 flooding and continues to serve as a financial resource for local small business expansion and job creation. Senator Yudichak's commitment to economic development has resulted in numerous successful projects in the region from the creation of a medical facility in Nanticoke to the expansion of a pharmaceutical company in Swiftwater.

Senator Yudichak, along with Congressman Lou Barletta, launched Operation Gang Up, a community-based initiative created to address gang activity in the region. He helped write Pennsylvania's first anti-gang law, secured funding for safe schools training for teachers and fought for investments in after-school and community programs for children.

A tireless advocate for public libraries and area youth programs, Senator Yudichak founded the Yudichak Family Lighthouse Fund of the Luzerne Foundation through private charitable efforts. Since its inception, the fund has donated more than \$100,000 to local libraries and other community programs.

A valued partner and supporter of Wilkes University, Senator Yudichak helped to secure a \$3 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant to enhance engineering labs in Stark Learning Center. He also helped to obtain a \$600,000 PennDOT grant to assist with the construction of the University's Campus Gateway project, benefitting both the campus and downtown Wilkes-Barre communities. In addition, Wilkes University is the higher education partner for SHINE, an educational afterschool program for Luzerne County schoolchildren launched in 2015 by Senator Yudichak and Congressman Barletta.