

Portrait of Jonathan Roberts presented to Upper Merion school

LOCAL NEWS

FEATURED

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Upper Merion -- The King of Prussia Historical Society presented, on permanent loan, a portrait of Jonathan Roberts to Roberts Elementary School for faculty, students and visitors alike to view and recall the man for whom the school is named.

The portrait was commissioned by the Society and painted by local area artist John Amoroso. The presentation was made in the school library. The painting will be hung in the hallway outside the school main office. Attending the presentation was Principal Dr. Anthony Grazel, PTC President Amanda Pertuch, members of the parent teacher council, King of Prussia Historical Society President David Montalvo, Vice President George Brusstar, Society board member Marianne Hooper, artist John Amoroso and Society board member Russell Rubert who conceived the idea for the portrait.

The Honorable Jonathan Roberts, August 16, 1771 – July 21, 1854, was PA State Senator and Assemblyman. US Senator and Congressman. He donated the funds to build the first Roberts School in Upper Merion for the children of local Croton Mill workers. He offered his family burial ground to the area poor of all colors. He spoke out against the expansion of slavery in the western territories.

His home and estate "Robertsville" still stands on the grounds of the Valley Forge Memorial Gardens.



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Pictured are, from left, Principal Dr. Anthony Grazel, King of Prussia Historical Society President David Montalvo, artist John Amoroso.

Submitted Photo



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https://www.timesherald.com/news/local/portrait-of-jonathan-roberts-presented-to-upper-merion-school/article_779b93be-4e83-11ea-ad8f-1fe465266b7e.html

Jonathan Roberts

1771-1854



Pennsylvania House Representative, Pennsylvania Senator,
US Representative and US Senator.

Senator Roberts dedicated his life to public service and to helping the poor of Upper Merion.

He built the first Roberts School in 1848 so that the children of the Croton Mill workers did not have to walk to King of Prussia to go to school.

He donated the land for the Roberts Burial ground where the poor of Upper Merion of all races could be interred for free.

He opposed the spread of slavery in the western territories and gave an impassioned speech against it on the Senate floor.

Valley Forge Memorial Gardens currently occupies the land and house where his estate was.

*Commissioned by the King of Prussia Historical Society; painted by local artist John Amoroso.
On permanent loan to Roberts Elementary School, Upper Merion Area School District.*