

Silent

FROM PAGE A1

lets of armed police officers.

Fourteen speakers shared songs, poetry, tears and prayer with the crowd.

William Vanderberg, who moved to Washington County from New York a year ago, said he has had pleasant experiences thus far in the Mid-Ohio Valley, but the movement is to ensure that "my children's children are safe."

Tyler Preston, 31, of Marietta, asked the crowd to place their hands on their hearts as he prayed for healing and peace.

Danté Sherman, 31, a Marietta College graduate who was "adopted" by the Miller family in Marietta while in school and has stayed close after his grandmother passed, spoke of the racism he experienced on and off campus while living in the city.

But each of the speakers offered the microphone were welcomed with applause and given hugs, handshakes and laughter after the demonstration con-

By the numbers:

- More than 1,000 individuals gathered in East Muskingum Park Sunday.
 - The peaceful demonstration featured:
 - 14 speakers, representing Black, Mexican and mixed-race individuals.
 - Five legal observers, all practicing lawyers in Washington County.
 - A former EMT and a registered nurse volunteered a medic tent during the protest to tend to safety needs during the 86-degree afternoon.
 - \$797 in donations for "Movement for Black Lives" M4BL.com.
 - Donated remaining food, an estimated worth of \$200, to the Gospel Mission Food Pantry.
- Source: Times research.

Sergio Cooman, 32, of Marietta. "All people are supposed to be equal and yet we aren't, and often there is no justice served when people are wronged. There are extremists in every culture, but those of white color who commit injustices in the name of God are often justified and nothing happens to them. We need to hold everyone to the same standard."

When asked how he felt about the event being organized by Zyla-Dennis and Lowther, who are both caucasian, Trey Stephens, 25, of Parkersburg was thankful.

"We need allies, we need everyone on our side in order for change to start happening," Stephens said. "I am proud that so many people in our community are willing to stand with us."

One individual did storm the stage to speak, but the microphone was quickly turned off and they were escorted from the gazebo stage to allow for more individuals of color to share.

Madeline Scarborough contributed to this story. Janelle Patterson may be reached at jpatterson@mariettatimes.com.

cluded.

"I think what hits home is we almost proved those who didn't believe we could stay peaceful wrong," said Zyla-Dennis after the park was cleared. "We did it, and we did it in solidarity and in peace."

Attendees of all colors seemed to share the similar thoughts as they left the protest, one of greater unity.

"The United States was founded on principles that are being neglected," said



An individual who stormed the gazebo stage during a peaceful protest designed to give individuals of color a chance to speak about their experiences of racism in Washington County, is escorted off the stage by private Ohio Patriots militia members.

Photo by Art Smith

Marietta police officers, educators and Marietta residents hold hands on hearts in a prayer offered during a peaceful protest against racism and police use of excessive force against individuals of color Sunday in East Muskingum Park.

Photo by Madeline Scarborough



America protests: Curfews being lifted; officials urge testing for COVID-19

NEW YORK (AP) — With New York City poised to reopen after a more than two-month coronavirus shutdown, officials on Sunday lifted a curfew that was in place amid protests of police brutality and racial injustice. But they also urged that demonstrators be tested for COVID-19.

"Get a test. Get a test," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo told people who have been

participating in rallies and marches in memory of George Floyd. "I would act as if you were exposed, and I would tell people you are interacting with, assume I am positive for the virus."

Cuomo said the state would open 15 testing sites dedicated to protesters so they can get results quickly. His call for demonstrators to proceed carefully is similar to those made in Seattle, San Francisco

and Atlanta following massive demonstrations, with free testing for protesters.

New York has been the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak, with black communities hit especially hard.

The Rev. Brandon Watts of Epiphany Church in Brooklyn, was mindful of the pandemic while organizing a "Pray & Protest" march with several other churches. He mandated that protesters wear

masks, and he came with boxes of them. Attendees also were offered free coronavirus tests at one church.

"COVID-19 hit the inner city harder than anybody else," Watts said. "And so we have to be very careful. We're the only ones in a pandemic within a pandemic."

In addition to suffering disproportionately from the the virus, the black community also has been roiled by the

death of Floyd, a black man who died after a white officer pressed a knee into his neck while arresting him.

Floyd's death renewed calls to reform policing in America and sparked massive protests throughout the country. A heavy-handed police response to protesters in many places underscored what critics have maintained: Law enforcement is militarized and too often uses excessive force.

Cities imposed curfews as several protests last week were marred by spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. More than 10,000 people have been arrested around the country since protests began, sometimes after violent confrontations with officers. Videos have surfaced of officers in riot gear using tear gas or physical force against even peaceful demonstrators.

Walk

FROM PAGE A1

believed, were too small and manageable to justify calling out the military.

Attorney General William Barr on Sunday denied Trump asked for 10,000 troops. The White House neither disputed nor confirmed the figure. A senior White House official recalled Trump urging Esper and Milley to get as many troops as needed to secure the city. The president stressed that Sunday night's unrest, in which St. John's Episcopal Church sustained fire damage and some businesses were vandalized, had shown that security was inadequate.

With the president's demands in mind, and hoping they could stall his move to use federal troops, Esper and Milley moved swiftly to try to get governors to send as many National Guard troops from their states as possible to supplement the roughly 1,300 District of

Columbia National Guard members and a hodgepodge of Park Police, Secret Service and other federal law enforcement officers dealing with protesters.

Because of the District of Columbia's special status and its dizzying mix of jurisdictions, the FBI field office had been selected to serve as a command post to coordinate the movements and functions of various security forces. Attorney General William Barr was in charge. That's why Esper was headed there from the Pentagon on Monday afternoon when he got the call to go see Trump again.

Milley had gone to the command center, also. And figuring he had seen the last of the White House for the day, he made a decision he later regretted — changing from his dress uniform, which is standard for a White House visit, to his battle fatigues, everyday wear at the Pentagon and when mixing with troops. Milley figured he would have a long night, including time with troops on the street.

Another surprise was in store for Esper and Milley when they reached the White House. After meetings, Trump went to the Rose Garden, where he noted Americans' revulsion at Floyd's death and declared himself the "president of law and order."

"In recent days, our nation has been gripped by professional anarchists, violent mobs, arsonists, looters, criminals, rioters, antifa and others," he said. "A number of state and local governments have failed to take necessary action to safeguard their residents."

That failure, in Trump's view, made it urgent to get more security on the streets, even if it meant using active-duty forces, about 1,300 of which had been moved to military bases just outside of Washington, just in case.

Esper and Milley, joined by Barr, opposed the use of federal troops at that point. To Esper, a failure to get more Guard troops called up would mean there would be active-duty troops all over the country confronting protesters, a

scene he and Milley saw as unwise and untenable.

After Trump finished his remarks in the Rose Garden he gathered aides and officials, including Esper and Milley, for a walk across Lafayette Park

to St. John's Church. The president held up a Bible to pose for photographers.

Critics would slam both Esper and Milley for their presence at the photo op — especially with Milley in battle fatigues. The

scene fed a perception that Milley was giving tangible meaning to Trump's threat to use the military on city streets, and that Esper was allowing himself to be used to advance a political agenda.

Reunion

FROM PAGE A1

high school graduation. The car has stayed in the Ackerman family ever since."

Ackerman continued to drive that same car to each class reunion. One of his children had planned to drive him in the car to this year's reunion, until the event was canceled.

Daughter Pat Dowler of Parkersburg, said her father proudly displays a photograph of himself and Beula when they attended the 50th alumni banquet. They are shown standing in front of the old Chevy.

"If he had gone this year, he would probably be the only one left from his class," Dowler said.

Ackerman said the old Chevy ended up in an administrator's sale but the family quickly got it back. Since then, a Columbus car agency offered to buy the car for \$10,000. The family declined the offer.

"Everything on that car is original except the tires and battery," Ackerman boasted.

After high school, Ackerman met his wife Beula on a blind date. She was from Calais, also in Monroe County.

"We set up housekeeping in a small house back in the woods. Then I bought my

grandparents' old home place," Ackerman said.

Ackerman started out farming, then moved on to public works. He joined the Carpenters Labor Union and worked with his hands from 1958 until he retired in 1982.

"I did carpenter work. I made swings, gliders and picnic tables. Everyone wanted swings. I would say since I retired in 1982 until 2004, I made at least 800 of them."

Ackerman said he had his own pattern and tools for his carpentry projects.

"It kept me busy. I've not been in the shop for five years. Now I'm just trying to enjoy what I worked all those years for."

ENGLERT LeafGuard
is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!*

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

QUALITY TESTED
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
★ 1999
LeafGuard
15 YEARS BACKED BY THE SEAL
A+
BBB
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

PLUS

\$99 INSTALLATION

RECEIVE A \$25 WALMART GIFT CARD

WITH FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!*

Walmart Gift Card

740-885-3165

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE!

- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH
- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY



*Does not include cost of material. Expires 6/30/20. **All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by Englert LeafGuard. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 10 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 6/30/20.

DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS

Bruce M. White
ATTORNEY AT LAW (WV & OH)

304-485-5444