



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penn State Homecoming Unveils 2019 Honorary Grand Marshal

Penn State Homecoming announces the Honorary Grand Marshal for Homecoming 2019

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA. (Apr. 17, 2019) — Student's gathered in the HUB-Robeson Center on Wednesday April 17, 2019 and joined Penn State Homecoming during their 9th annual Legacy Celebration. During this year's Legacy, Penn State Homecoming will be announcing Martha & Paul Sharkey to be the Homecoming 2019 Honorary Grand Marshal.

Martha & Paul Sharkey are the Founders of Today is a Good Day, a non-profit providing personal and financial support for families with babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Each year the Homecoming Executive Committee selects an Honorary Grand Marshal to represent Penn State Homecoming and the surrounding community. The HGM is someone that has gone above and beyond for the Penn State community and embodies the spirit of Penn State. HGM will attend and be honored at various homecoming events throughout the week, including the Parade and Homecoming Football Game.

Martha and Paul founded Today is a Good Day in honor of their daughter, Claire, and in memory of their daughter, Mary. They welcomed their identical twin girls at just 23 weeks and 5 days on November 14, 2010. Their daughters were due in March 2011. Claire weighed 1lb. 2oz. Mary weighed 1lb. 4oz. Mary lived for only two weeks before passing away due to complications from her premature birth. Claire beat incredible odds and came home after 103 days in the NICU at Abington Hospital. Martha and Paul live in Wyndmoor with their daughters, Claire and Martha Rose.

Prior to focusing fully on advancing the mission of Today is a Good Day, Martha served in several non-profit leadership roles, including Executive Director of the Chestnut Hill Business District and Assistant Director of Corporate Sponsorship for The Franklin Institute. She has over 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector, including event management and fundraising. She also hosts corporate social responsibility projects with local and national companies. Martha holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from the Pennsylvania State University.

Before Paul's current role, he worked as a Small Business and Key Accounts Account Executive responsible for selling the value of UnitedHealthcare's medical, specialty benefits, and stop loss insurance to groups with 1 to 3,000 eligible employees. Prior to UnitedHealthcare, he worked for a regional health insurance brokerage firm in suburban Philadelphia and two institutions of higher education. Paul holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing & International Business from The Pennsylvania State University.

-more-



During Legacy Celebration this year, students will be able to see both of the HGM's together and celebrate a fun-filled event used as a means not only to commemorate another awesome Nittany Lion school year but to also excite students for upcoming Homecoming festivities. Legacy embodies the idea that Homecoming is not restricted to just one week in the fall; it is a year-round celebration. The event consists of music, student performers, interactive games, and fun food. A float of the Logo is also constructed that students can "pomp" throughout the day and reflect on the theme of Homecoming and ultimately celebrate all the great things we accomplish as a University.

About Us

Penn State Homecoming is a student-run organization with aims to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty and staff across the community. Our organization is comprised of many student volunteers who donate their time to creating a multitude of events that make the Homecoming celebration a yearlong event.

###

Contact: Lauren Myers

Director of Public Relations – Penn State Homecoming

prhomecoming@psu.edu

www.homecoming.psu.edu