



The York White Rose Wanderers

Welcomes You to

THE THURMONT TOWN WALK 5K & 10K

An AVA Sanctioned Year-Round Event



The 5km walk rated at 1B. The 10km walk is available and is rated at a 2B. Both walks take you on the Trolley Trail walking alongside the Big Hunting Creek and into the historic town of Thurmont, Maryland. Gaze upon the Catocin Mountains, home to Camp David, and enjoy the “Gateway to the Mountains”. There is a small section of walk at the beginning of the trail that is crushed gravel, but the rest is on paved walking path, city sidewalks, and streets.

The walk starts and ends at the Mountainview Convenience Store. Please stop in and support this business by purchasing food, beverages, and gas for your trip. Bathrooms are available at the start/end point. Park off to the side of the building when out walking on the trail.

After the walk, you are encouraged to head up into the mountains to Cunningham Falls State Park to see the source of the Big Hunting Creek. There are numerous hiking paths and pull offs in the park and the foliage in the fall is absolutely breathtaking.

Walk Registration:

Registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the “My Start Box” tab, then the “Finish Table” tab, then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Table of Contents:

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

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5km Walking Directions for the Thurmont Town Walk

Starting Point Location:

Mountainview Convenience Store:

140 Frederick Rd, Thurmont MD 21788

From Frederick, MD and South: N on US Rt 15 to MD Rt 806. Turn right at stop sign, left at traffic light on Frederick. Immediate right to Mountainview Convenience Store across street from Mountain Gate Family Restaurant.

From Gettysburg and North: Exit US Rt 15 at MD 806. Turn left at stop sign, left at traffic light on Frederick. Immediate right to Mountainview Convenience Store across street from Mountain Gate Family Restaurant.

Restrooms:

There are bathrooms available in the Mountainview Convenience Store.

Insect repellent recommended along Big Hunting Creek.

Emergency Numbers:



In case of Emergency: Dial 911
Event related assistance:
Seth Werner: 717-495-9616

Walking Instructions:

Abbreviations used:

ns – No Sign. There is no street sign.

C&P – Cross and/or Pass. Usage – {C&P: 1st St and 2nd St.}

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Walk Directions:

1) Starting with your back to the Mountainview Convenience Store and turn left to walk on the sidewalk along Frederick Road.

2) At the end of the signal light with Thurmont Blvd, turn left heading towards the Goodwill and the Weis Grocery Store.

3) Walk towards the Weis Grocery store and take the wooded path to the left between the Goodwill and Weis Grocery Store.

4) Stay straight on this trail, bearing slightly right at the Library loop (goes off to the left) until you reach the end.

5) At the end of the trail (you will see a large pipeline across the path from you) turn to the left.

POI # 1- Library is to the left

POI #2- Big Hunting Creek is to the right

POI #3- Trolley Trail

6) Cross over Moser Road (ns), Water Street (ns), Park Lane (ns), and East Main Street (ns). Trolley Trail turns into packed gravel.

POI #4- Thurmont Memorial Park

POI #5- Trolley Station

7) At end of trail, turn left to walk on Boundary Ave (ns).

8) At end of Boundary Ave, turn Left to walk on sidewalk on N. Church Street (ns). Walk away from Railroad Thurmont Bridge.

POI #6- Mount Carmel Catholic Church

POI #7- Thurmont Historical Society: 11 N. Church Street

9) Cross Main Street (ns) at the signal light and immediately turn right to cross over Water Street (ns) to walk on left side of Main Street (Old Thurmont Bank on Corner).

10) Cross over Howard Street.

POI #8- Match House: 28 West Main

POI #9- Tavern and Inn: 27 West Main

11) Turn Left on S. Altamont Ave (Do Not Enter Traffic Sign). Continue to end being careful of oncoming traffic.

12) Turn Right at end of S. Altamont Ave on Frederick Road (no sign) Flagpole across street.

13) Cross over Big Hunting Creek and turn Right into the Community Park (19 Frederick Road).

14) Take the walking path to the left of the main drive and head towards the pavilions.

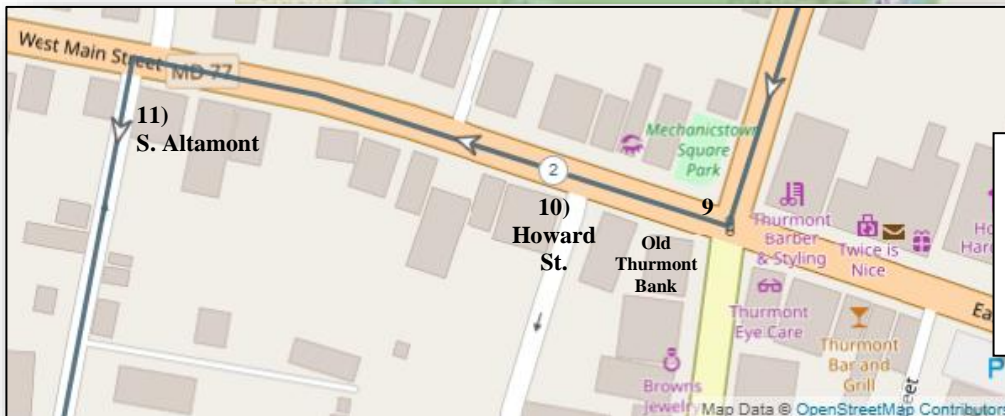
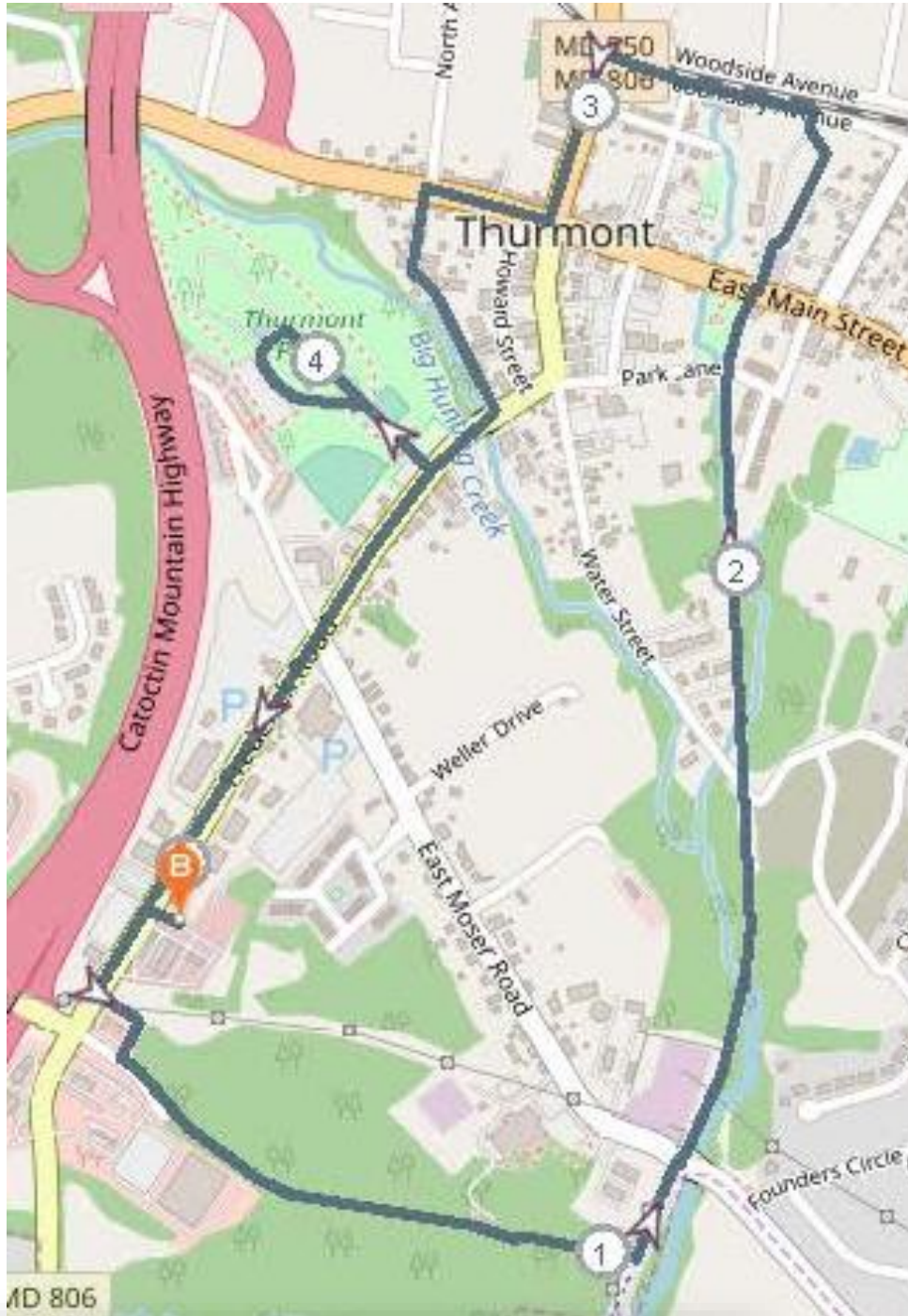
15) Follow the path between the second pavilion and the basketball court to the left. Return on this driveway to Frederick Road.

16) Carefully cross Frederick Road in the crosswalk and turn right to walk on the sidewalk along Frederick Road.

17) Cross over East Moser Road

POI #10- Cozy Restaurant: 111 Frederick Road (Large Flagpole)

18) Return to the Mountainview Convenience Store. Thank the staff for their support and buy a drink and some snacks.



9) Cross Main Street (ns) at the signal light and immediately turn right to cross over Water Street (ns) to walk on left side of Main Street (Old Thurmont Bank on Corner).
 10) Cross over Howard Street.
 11) Turn Left on S. Altamont Ave (Do Not Enter Traffic Sign)

Points of Interest**Thurmont Town 5km walk**

- 1) The Thurmont Regional Library opened in August 2008. Its unique 40-foot-tall stone entrance tower is in the style of the nearby historic Catoctin Furnace.
- 2) Big Hunting Creek runs out of the Catochin Mountains and Cunningham Falls State Park. In spite of its name, Big Hunting Creek can be characterized as a small, freestone stream. Big Hunting Creek supports a strong population of wild brown trout. Brown trout are found throughout the watershed from the tiny headwaters downstream through the town of Thurmont. Although some brown trout will reach fifteen inches, the majority are less than twelve. It was also the first stream to be designated a fly-fishing-only stream and in the early 1960's became the State's first Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Area. Big Hunting Creek has been popular with angling Presidents, noted authors, fly fishing enthusiasts and park visitors who enjoy viewing trout in a natural mountain setting.
- 3) The Thurmont Trolley began life in 1886 when the Monocacy Valley Railroad Company built a steam train line to haul iron from Catoctin Furnace to Thurmont and the Western Maryland Railroad. Two years later, the Northern Railroad Company extended the line to Frederick. In 1908, the lines became electric. Finally in 1913, the Northern Railway Company connected to the Washington County railroad lines and the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Company was formed.

It was in 1907 when the Washington, Frederick and Gettysburg Railroad purchased the Monocacy Valley Railroad and began building the connecting link of three miles between Lewistown and Catoctin Furnace. When this link was completed, it provided a continuous track from Frederick to Thurmont, where it made connections with the Western Maryland Railroad. The line between Frederick and Washington and from Thurmont to Gettysburg never materialized. Not long after the line was completed from Frederick to Thurmont, the Frederick Railroad Company was formed and took over the operation of the railroad from Frederick to Thurmont, and operated a steam railroad between the two communities. In 1909, electrification of the Thurmont-Frederick division was accomplished, thus making it the very first electric railroad in the United States to handle freight cars with electric locomotives. In that same year the first electric passenger car made its maiden run from Frederick to Thurmont.

The unique feature of this line was the standard gauge track, which made it possible to route freight cars over the tracks which provided many services to communities located along the scenic route. The trolley ran until February 20, 1954.

- 4) Thurmont Memorial Park (across the street) is the only park in Maryland that commemorates soldiers from every American war from the French and Indian War to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 5) Trolley Station- Go to the green and white trolley and view the mural painted on the building behind the trolley. The trolley is the Hagerstown & Frederick Rail Road (H&FRR) Motor Freight No. 5. It is unusual in that its purpose was to carry freight – not passengers. The building was the Hagerstown & Frederick Trolley Station. The building that was once used to house all the electrical components that operated the trolley. The Town of Thurmont and the Thurmont Lions Club has installed murals on the building depicting the history of Thurmont.

- 6) A March 1828 manuscript at Mt St Mary's University identifies that the priests at the college were taking care of a Catholic congregation in Mechanicstown (known since 1892 as Thurmont). The Rector of the Seminary at Mt St Mary's advocated the construction of a church in 1856; the present Gothic-styled church was dedicated, Sunday, June 5, 1859. The parish was attended by Mount priests until the appointment of a dedicated priest in 1881. Since then, there has usually been a joint pastorate of St. Anthony Shrine and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parishes. President and Mrs. Kennedy attended mass here one time and the Secret Service used the turret on the Hammaker House to provide security.
- 7) The Thurmont Historical Society is located inside the "Creeger House". This house is really two houses in one – a small, log house dating to the 1820's inside an enlarged Victorian brick house of 1876. The original house was owned by Daniel Rouzer and appears on the 1825 tax records. His grandson, John R Rouzer, purchased this house in 1865. During the Civil War he was promoted twice for bravery and also endured a brief period of imprisonment. After the War he returned a hero. He was elected to the Maryland State Legislature in 1867, followed by six years as Register of Wills for Frederick County. He would serve three more terms in the Legislature. The house was sold in 1926 to Edwin Creeger who was the local Chevrolet Dealer. The Creegers only son Edward was a naval aviator when he lost his life in WW II. He was the first war casualty from Thurmont and the American Legion post is named after him. In 1990, Mrs. Creeger donated the house to the Thurmont Historical Society.
- 8) The stone house at #28 W Main St is known as the "Match House". Jacob Weller purchases the property in 1805 and shortly afterwards built the one- and one-half story stone building, probably with a workshop behind it. Weller is credited with the manufacture of the first friction matches in the United States, copied from French models imported to Frederick. The time was about 1825. Jacob and son Joseph traveled extensively to sell the matches, with little success, especially when they attempted to sell the matches to area farmers, they were met with suspicion for their new-fangled and possibly dangerous product. Unfortunately, Jacob failed to patent his invention; copy-cat manufacturers sprang up in the wake of his sales route. The first patent for friction matches was issued to a man in Massachusetts in 1836.
- 9) The large stone building on the corner of West Main St and Altamont Ave was the first hotel in Thurmont. Jacob Weller purchased the property in August 1805 and construction on his large stone house began almost immediately; the date "1805" is inscribed on the west side chimney gable. This building was used as both a home and the first inn in town, with a large stable area on the east side. The Inn must have been quite successful since he received \$4,000 for it at the time of its sale in 1813. The building has been little altered and is now restored as a significant example of Anglo-German architecture.
- 10) Cozy Restaurant – built in 1929 by Wilbur R Freeze, Cozy grew from a 12-stool restaurant to become one of the most popular eating places in Maryland, having a seating capacity well over 350. On a busy day, over 1300 customers were served. Well known guests included Sir Winston Churchill, Henry Cabot Lodge, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Jean Stapleton, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Branch Rickey, and Roger Staubach.

AVA Special Programs applicable to the Thurmont Town 5km Walk

- Par-For-The-Course
- Rails-To-Trails
- Town Halls / City Halls
- Walking with America's Veterans

10km Walking Directions for the Thurmont Town Walk

Starting Point Location:

Mountainview Convenience Store:

140 Frederick Rd, Thurmont MD 21788

From Frederick, MD and South: N on US Rt 15 to MD Rt 806. Turn right at stop sign, left at traffic light on Frederick. Immediate right to Mountainview Convenience Store across street from Mountain Gate Family Restaurant.

From Gettysburg and North: Exit US Rt 15 at MD 806. Turn left at stop sign, left at traffic light on Frederick. Immediate right to Mountainview Convenience Store across street from Mountain Gate Family Restaurant.

Restrooms:

There are bathrooms available in the Mountainview Convenience Store.

Insect repellent recommended along Big Hunting Creek.

Emergency Numbers:



In case of Emergency: Dial 911
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Walking Instructions:

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Walk Directions:

- 1) Starting with your back to the Mountainview Convenience Store and turn left to walk on the sidewalk along Frederick Road.
- 2) At the end of the signal light with Thurmont Blvd, turn left heading towards the Goodwill and the Weis Grocery Store.
- 3) Walk towards the Weis Grocery store and take the wooded path to the left between the Goodwill and Weis Grocery Store.
- 4) Stay straight on this trail, bearing slightly right at the Library loop (goes off to the left) until you reach the end.
- 5) At the end of the trail (you will see a large pipeline across the path from you) turn to the left.
- 6) Cross over Moser Road (ns).
- 7) Turn Right onto the footbridge.
- 8) Turn Left onto Founders Circle.
- 9) Turn Right on Colliery Drive. *C&P Stone Chapel Way, Blackford Circle, & Ore Mill Place.*
- 10) Turn Left of Ironmaster Court. *C&P Furnace Court.*
- 11) Turn Left on Westview Drive.
- 12) Turn Right on Victor Drive.
- 13) Turn Right on Woodlawn Avenue *C&P Ironmaster Drive and Stoney Park Way.*
- 14) Turn Left on Westview Drive. *C&P Mountain Ore Court, Mill Forge Court, Ironmaster Drive, & William Drive.*
- 15) Turn Left on East Main Street. *C&P Meadow Lane, Orchard Drive, and Meadow Lane (again).*
- 16) Carefully cross East Main Street to turn Right onto Apples Church Road. **NO CROSSWALK.** Walk on Left side of road. *C&P Locust Drive and Poplar Avenue.*

18) Turn Left on Boundary Avenue. (directly before the RR Tracks)

19) Boundary turns to the left, Turn Right at the grey Building to stay on Boundary Avenue. *C&P Walnut Street, Benjamin Alley (ns), Lombard Street (ns) and Palmer Alley (ns).*

20) Turn Left on Carroll Street and make and immediate Right onto Boundary Avenue. *C&P North Center Street*

21) At end of Boundary Avenue- Carefully cross North Church Street to turn Right under the Railroad Bridge.
POI #1- Mount Carmel Catholic Church

22) Turn Left on unnamed Alley- DO NOT ENTER SIGN. (Into Townhouse Community)

23) At end of Alley- Turn Left on North Altamont Avenue.

24) Cross over the Railroad Tracks Carefully.

25) Turn right into the first entrance for Blue Ridge Cemetery.

26) Stay Left at the Y.

27) Turn Left on first path.
POI #2- Weller United Methodist Church

28) At end of path, Turn Left on Flanagan Road. *C&P Allen Drive*

29) Turn Right on North Altamont Drive. *C&P Stull Drive and West Main Street (Slight jog to right to continue, Do not Enter Sign)*
POI #3- Tavern and Inn: 27 West Main
POI #4- Match House: 28 West Main

30) At end of North Altamont Drive, Turn Left on Water Street.

31) Turn Left on Howard Street

32) Turn Right onto West Main Street

33) Cross North Church Street to immediately cross East Main Street to walk on Right side of North Church Street.
POI #5- Gilbert house Hotel: 1 East Main Street
POI #6- Thurmont Historical Society: 11 N. Church Street

34) Turn Right on East Street.

35) Turn Right on North Center Street.

36) Turn Left on East Main Street

37) Turn Right at the Trolley Trail Cross Walk (across East Main Street) to walk on the Trolley Trail. *C&P Park Lane and Woodland Avenue.*

POI #7- Trolley Station

POI #8- Trolley Trail

POI #9- Thurmont Memorial Park

POI #10- Big Hunting Creek is running around you

38) Turn Right on East Moser Road. *C&P East Hunting Creek Drive, Old Oak Square, and Weller Drive.*
POI #11- Library is to the left

39) Turn Left Frederick Road.
POI #12- Cozy Restaurant: 111 Frederick Road (Large Flagpole)

40) Return to Mountain View Convenience store and start point on Right. *Thank the staff for their support and buy a drink and some snacks.*



Points of Interest

Thurmont Town 10km walk

- 1) A March 1828 manuscript at Mt St Mary's University identifies that the priests at the college were taking care of a Catholic congregation in Mechanicstown (known since 1892 as Thurmont). The Rector of the Seminary at Mt St Mary's advocated the construction of a church in 1856; the present Gothic-styled church was dedicated, Sunday, June 5, 1859. The parish was attended by Mount priests until the appointment of a dedicated priest in 1881. Since then, there has usually been a joint pastorate of St. Anthony Shrine and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parishes. President and Mrs. Kennedy attended mass here one time and the Secret Service used the turret on the Hammaker House to provide security.
- 2) Weller United Methodist is one of the oldest churches in Thurmont, dating back to 1830. Jacob Weller, Jr., the third generation of the Weller family, in what was Mechanicstown but is now known as Thurmont, donated the ground for the building of a Brethren church and cemetery on Altamount Avenue. The cornerstone of the 40-foot square stone building was placed in October 1830. Jacob Weller, Jr. died in 1831. At the time of his death, Weller's Church was still unfinished. His grave was the first in the Brethren Church cemetery.

President Carter attended Weller UMC with his daughter Amy in May 1977. They arrived unannounced and shook hands with nearly everyone after the service.

The United Brethren in Christ (UBC) congregation was aligned with the disciplines of the Evangelical Church and the two united in 1946 to become the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB). In 1968, the EUB and the Methodist Church joined.

- 3) The large stone building on the corner of West Main St and Altamount Ave was the first hotel in Thurmont. Jacob Weller purchased the property in August 1805 and construction on his large stone house began almost immediately; the date "1805" is inscribed on the west side chimney gable. This building was used as both a home and the first inn in town, with a large stable area on the east side. The Inn must have been quite successful since he received \$4,000 for it at the time of its sale in 1813. The building has been little altered and is now restored as a significant example of Anglo-German architecture.
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- 5) The building at #1 E Main St, that is now the Thurmont Barber & Styling, was once the Gilbert House Hotel. John B. Gilbert was the proprietor of the old (ca. 1816) hotel "on the square" in Mechanicstown beginning in 1865. With the arrival of the railroad, the local tanneries and factories boomed. In addition, the town's access by train made it a popular summer resort. The Gilbert House hotel hosted many of these businessmen and visitors and its dining room was the center of both commercial and social activity in town.
- 6) The Thurmont Historical Society is located inside the "Creeger House". This house is really two houses in one – a small, log house dating to the 1820's inside an enlarged Victorian brick house of 1876. The original house was owned by Daniel Rouzer and appears on the 1825 tax records. His grandson, John R Rouzer, purchased this house in 1865. During the Civil War he was promoted twice for bravery and also endured a brief period of imprisonment. After the War he returned a hero. He was elected to the Maryland State Legislature in 1867, followed by six years as Register of Wills for Frederick County. He would serve three more terms in the Legislature. The house was sold in 1926 to Edwin Creeger who was the local Chevrolet Dealer. The Creegers only son Edward was a naval aviator when he lost his life in WW II. He was the first war casualty from Thurmont and the American Legion post is named after him. In 1990, Mrs. Creeger donated the house to the Thurmont Historical Society.

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