

The Meeme Liberty Pole site located at the intersections of CTH XX and CTH M in the town of Meeme soon will have a secondary, modern 60-foot industrial flagpole.

The St. Nazianz American Legion Post and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 477 are running a capital campaign to raise funds for the second flagpole.

In April 2022, Post 477 assumed custodial duties for the Meeme Liberty Pole, then promptly installed power and lighting on the site. Repairs were conducted to the halyard, pulley system and to the weathervane, which sits atop the historic pole.

In September 2022, Post 277 planned and conducted the 100-year rededication celebration of the Liberty Pole. The event was widely publicized and attended by more than 175 citizens from throughout the area. An American flag now flies 365 days a year, weather permitting.

The first Liberty Pole was erected by Nicolas Dittmar in 1852 as an expression of gratitude for the liberties and freedom found here in America. This first pole was destroyed by a sleet storm. The second Liberty Pole was donated and erected in 1889 by Civil War veterans in remembrance of their fallen comrades. It is said that the early settlers gathered at the pole each 4th of July for patriotic programs and a picnic until the 1900s.

The second Liberty Pole was destroyed when hit by lightning in June 1916. The Meeme community decided it wanted a steel pole and they held their own fundraising drive which resulted in raising \$400. That new pole was made of gun metal and stands 62 feet in height and was dedicated on Sept. 3, 1922 by the American Legion Post 99 of Kiel. The program attracted a large crowd of nearly 1,000 people.

The Liberty Pole was declared a



Above, the Liberty Pole site was refurbished and then rededicated in 2022. At right are three different historic views of the site.

State Historic Landmark on June 15, 1974 and remains one of three Liberty Poles in the nation.

After 124 years of service, time and the elements have taken their toll on the current Liberty Pole making a secondary flagpole necessary. The post has established a goal to raise \$25,000 which will fund a commercial grade 60-foot flagpole with an internal winch system and lighting. This flagpole will ensure that an American flag will continue to fly over this historic site for many years to come.

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FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Drive aims to get 2nd pole at Liberty site

With support from local citizens, businesses and organizations, the post will be able to dedicate the new flagpole on July 4, 2026, America's 250th birthday. It is important to note that the Meeme Liberty Pole will remain on the site, but will

only fly a flag on holidays to include Flag Day.

If anyone has questions or would like to donate toward the capital campaign, please reach out to Americanlegionpost477@gmail.com or call Kevin at 920-286-3009.