

Proclamation

By Mayor and Council - Township of North Brunswick

WHEREAS, the Township of North Brunswick's **Veteran Street Sign Program** allows Township residents who were Wartime Veterans to be recognized by adding their name on a secondary street sign to an existing Municipal Road; and

WHEREAS, by adding names of local Wartime Veterans to public street signs, we hope to promote public awareness of these individuals and show our appreciation for their outstanding contributions and service to our country as a member of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, eligible military candidates for this honor include honorably discharged Veterans having served in Military Departments as defined under Department of Defense which include Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Forces, as well as the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS Wartime Veterans are individuals who served in the active military forces, during a period of armed conflict or who received the armed forces expeditionary or other campaign service medals during an emergency condition, including those who died in the line of duty in the active military forces; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard Lawrence** has been selected to be recognized in the Veteran Street Sign Program; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard** was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 17, 1922; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard** attended Brooklyn College. He graduated from North Carolina State University where he studied Chemical Engineering and was a member of the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) at North Carolina State. He entered the Army straight out of ROTC and did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He arrived in England in November 1944 and moved to France for combat activity along the German/French border; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard's** first major combat activity in the 87th Division was as part of Patton's Third Army; they were the first Allied units to break through the Siegfried Line near Strasbourg, France. His division was sent to help the 101st Airborne Division break their encirclement at Bastogne, Belgium. His regiment was located to the northwest of Bastogne and on the night of December 31, 1944 they moved into action. He was wounded in action against the Panzer Lehr armored division (an experienced combat unit from the eastern front with Russia) under Hitler's order to fight their way into Belgium and capture a major allied port at Antwerp. The 347th regiment broke through the German lines in early January 1945. Gerard was wounded and had frozen feet from a blizzard and less than minus forty degree Fahrenheit temperatures while wearing summer weight uniforms and footwear. He recovered and returned to the US aboard a hospital ship in April 1945; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard** received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, a Combat Infantryman's Badge and Campaign Ribbons; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard** was married to Lillian on August 11, 1944 in Columbia, South Carolina. Together they had two sons, Kenneth and Richard; and

WHEREAS, **Gerard** had a service business in Brooklyn, New York from 1961 to 1975. His business was to clean and glaze bakery pans for major commercial bakers mainly in the New York metro area as well as customers in New England, New York State and Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS, **Gerard** resided in North Brunswick for twenty years from July 1978 until his death in December of 1998. His widow continued living in North Brunswick until her death in April of 2005:

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM**, distinguished recognition to **Gerard Lawrence**, for his service to our country ensuring freedom for all.

Francis M. Womack III
Mayor

Robert Corbin
Council President

Bob Davis
Councilman

Lou Ann Benson
Director of DPRCS

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk
May 9, 2016