

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 medal during an emergency condition, including those who died in the line of duty in the active military forces; and

WHEREAS, **Joseph R. Hems** has been selected to be recognized in the Veteran Street Sign Program; and

WHEREAS, **Joseph** is a native of New Jersey who grew up in Newark and graduated from Central High School. He enrolled in job related courses from the American Petroleum Institute and various Sales Motivation courses; and

WHEREAS, **Joseph** joined the US Army in 1949 and was sent to Korea in August of 1950. On September 14, just several weeks after his assignment as an automatic rifleman with an attacking infantry unit, the 18 year old Hems incurred multiple head and shrapnel wounds resulting from enemy mortar fire. He was wounded in the Battle of Pusan Perimeter and received a Purple Heart. He served until February 1952; and

WHEREAS, **Joseph's** commitment towards veterans is evident in the fact that he reorganized the Military Order of the Purple Heart Organization in New Jersey. He has received numerous awards for recruitment, growth and development within the organization. Through the years he served as Chapter and State Commander. His leadership was recognized throughout the organization and he was elected as the National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for the year 1991-1992; and

WHEREAS, **Joseph**, his wife Harriet and their family have been residents of North Brunswick for fifty-one years. He has participated in many community activities including Pop Warner Football and the North Brunswick High School Booster Club; and

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

Francis M. Womack III
Mayor

Catherine Nicola
Council President

Bob Davis
Councilman

Lou Ann Benson
Director of DPRCS

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk
August 25, 2014