

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, Air Force, 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, **Melanie Paccillo** has been selected to be recognized in the Veteran Street Sign Program; and

WHEREAS, **Melanie** was born on May 23, 1985 in North Brunswick, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, **Melanie** attended Norfolk State University on a Navy ROTC Scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and a commission as an ensign. She attended Primary and Intermediate Flight School in Pensacola, Florida and selected as a Naval Flight Officer. She went on to achieve the Combat Information Center Officer in the airframe and serve as Squadron Legal Officer, Avionics Division Officer, and Squadron Personnel Officer. In the 2011 Western Pacific conflict on the USS Ronald Reagan, her squadron provided air control during Operation New Dawn in Afghanistan and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq, during a mechanical malfunction that forced an emergency landing. The crew also participated in humanitarian assistance relief, Operation Tomodachi, where they delivered life-saving supplies to over 33,500 citizens. It was that mission that Melanie was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal. Melanie believes this was her best and proudest work. She controlled dozens of helicopters, located survivors, received lists of needs and would coordinate delivery. The devastation was impactful and led her to a path to use her strength for good. Her service to the United States Navy led her to dedicate herself to humanitarianism and assisting those less fortunate. She was Honorably Discharged in July 2014. Melanie received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal and many other ribbons and medals for her service; and

WHEREAS, **Melanie** began serving with the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (the Cabrini Sisters) and the Cabrini Mission Corps volunteer program as the primary anti-human trafficking coordinator in New York City. She also helped survivors by assisting them with job interviews, financial security and independence. She currently works with the Sisters focusing on working together and fundraising for Cabrini missions in Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua. She addresses the needs of the people with poor access to education and living in poverty. She is directly involved with fundraising for "Dispensario Madre Cabrini", a clinic that provides services to the survivors of Volcan Fuego's recent eruption.

WHEREAS, **Melanie** is the daughter of Thomas (Deceased) and Mary Paccillo and has one sister, Tara.

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

Francis M. Womack III
Mayor

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk
October 1, 2018

Bob Davis
Council President

Lou Ann Benson
Director of DPRCS