

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, **William E. Ricker Sr.** has been selected to be recognized in the Veteran Street Sign Program; and

WHEREAS, **William** was born on June 29, 1915 in New Brunswick, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, **William** enlisted in the United States Army on June 16, 1941. William served in World War II in its entirety. He was stationed at Sheffield Barracks on Pearl Harbor in the Military Fire Corp. He served during the attack on Pearl Harbor and in the Asian Theater. He was honorably discharged in 1945. He earned the American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star and the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal for his service; and

WHEREAS, **William** moved to Chestnut Street in North Brunswick in 1947. He would begin every day by raising the flag and at sunset perform the military fold with one of his children. William wanted his children to be proud of this country as he was. He was a dedicated North Brunswick resident and proud Democrat; and

WHEREAS, **William** was a member of the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) organizations in North Brunswick, New Brunswick and Spotswood, the Milltown American Legion and the Milltown Order of the Cooties, which you could only be a member of if you served overseas in the trenches (the Cooties). He volunteered at area VFW's and with the VFW programs for children. The Ricker Family assisted the Special Olympics as sponsors and chaperones as well as hosting picnics for participants and their families. William was honored to serve in the Honor Guard in the Memorial Day Parade in North Brunswick. His family recalls the way he looked in his uniform and the "three pleat military press" that only he could do. William was proud to be part of the parade as he fired that 21 gun salute and then saluted the flag. William did this every year until his passing on May 16, 1982; and

WHEREAS, **William** was married to Clothide (Bahash) on August 19, 1945. They were married for 37 years. They have four children; William E. Ricker Jr. (Deceased), Joseph R. Ricker (Deceased), MaryEllen Bybel and her husband Robert and Kathleen Anne Ambrosy and her husband David. They also have ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

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

Francis M. Womack III
Mayor

Carlo Socio
Council President

Bob Davis
Councilman

Lou Ann Benson
Director of DPRCS

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk
August 28, 2017