

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 Forces, 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, **Wilbur "Whip" O'Connell** has been selected to be recognized in the Veteran Street Sign Program; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** was born July 17, 1922 in Fresh Ponds, New Jersey. The farmhouse in which he was born still stands on Church Lane. He was the youngest of six children. The family later moved to Milltown Road during the early 1930's. This is where he met his future wife Phyllis; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Seaman First Class in 1942 and remained in the Service until his Honorable discharge in 1946; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** served in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters, finding himself stationed in such places as Mermansk, Marseilles, Caracas, Hawaii and the Philippines. He served on three ships that were blown up. He was listed as MIA (missing in action) in 1944. Because his mother was ill, Phyllis was listed as emergency contact. On the day Phyllis was going to tell his mother Wilbur was missing, she saw someone in the distance calling her name. It was Wilbur and Mrs. O'Connell never knew he was missing;

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** married to Phyllis Brogley on April 20, 1946 and together they had one daughter, Deborah. She is married to Joe Suchocki and they still reside in North Brunswick and have two daughters (Wilbur's granddaughters, Meghan and Kathryn; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** worked for Permacel Tape and retired in 1987; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** joined Fire Company No. 1 and remained a member until his death on January 18, 1989. The flagpole and the restored fire engine were dedicated to him for his lifelong service; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** was a member of the Exempt Fireman's Association and the Milltown Masonic Lodge; and

WHEREAS, **Wilbur** was a member of the American Legion Post 459 and BPOE Elks # 324:

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Mayor and Council of the Township of North Brunswick, **DO HEREBY PROCLAIM**, distinguished recognition to **Wilbur "Whip" O'Connell** 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
June 27, 2016

