

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-51

HONORING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DISTINGUISHED MILITARY CAREER OF HOSPITALMAN JOHN V. KICKHAM JR., RECOGNIZING HIS EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AS A CORPSMAN AND MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, AND NAMING HIM THE 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE COLONEL WILLIAM H. BEYER COMMENDATION FOR OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE.

WHEREAS, HN John V. Kickham Jr., a longtime Berea resident, honorably served our nation as a Corpsman in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest military decoration for valor, and his heroic actions during the Vietnam War should be acknowledged and applauded by all Americans, most especially his neighbors and fellow residents of the City of Berea; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham enlisted in the US Navy and was subsequently assigned with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group Sixteen, First Marine Aircraft Wing, stationed in the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 1971, while evacuating an allied Marine who had been critically wounded in the day's combat operation, HN Kickham's transport helicopter came under such intense and hostile fire that ammunition ruptured the hydraulic fluid lines, dousing HN Kickham with hazardous liquid and ultimately causing the aircraft to crash land in a nearby moat; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham, at great personal risk, continued to care for his patient, even as the partially submerged aircraft filled with rushing water and then burst in to flames, igniting his fluid-soaked clothing which resulted in severe burns; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham resolutely and relentlessly struggled again and again to lift his patient to safety, only to tumble through a submerged window, become entangled in the wiring that lined the moat and be forcibly submerged underwater until, after liberating himself multiple times, he was forced to recognize that the conditions in the moat and the burning helicopter made any further rescue endeavor impossible; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham inspired all who observed his selfless actions that perilous day, and was thus consequently awarded with the Silver Star for demonstrating indomitable courage, fearless determination, unwavering devotion to duty and gallantry in action; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham received several other military honors including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, multiple Air Medals, the Civic Actions Medal and a Meritorious Unit Commendation; and

WHEREAS, HN Kickham faithfully served our nation with courage and humility, ultimately risking his life to uphold the highest ideals of the Marine Corps, the Naval Services and the United States of America.

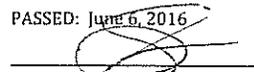
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berea, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Berea City Council hereby honors and acknowledges the outstanding military career of HN John V. Kickham Jr., and here names him the recipient of the 2016 Colonel William H. Beyer Commendation for Outstanding Military Service.

SECTION 2. That the President and all Members of Council, the Mayor and the Members of the Administration and the residents of the City of Berea do, with full and thankful hearts, recognize and commend HN Kickham for his extraordinary efforts in the United States Navy and with the United States Marine Corps, and extend to him and his family our sincere gratitude and respect for what has been, without question, a life well lived.

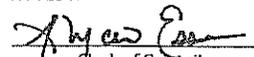
SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED: June 6, 2016



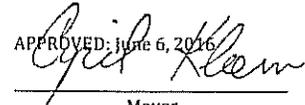
President of Council

ATTEST:



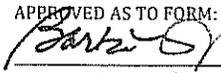
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: June 6, 2016



Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Director of Law