



PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE Jim "Pee Wee" Martin

WHEREAS, Sugarcreek Township resident James H. Martin led a life of service with measureless contributions to the United States of America and the world during his lifetime; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Martin was born on April 29, 1921, in Portage Pennsylvania and moved with his family to Indiana where they stayed until Jim was the age of 10. In May of 1931 Jim's father's employer, United Aircraft Company, moved to Dayton; and,

WHEREAS, During World War II, Jim first enlisted in the U.S. Navy when he was 21, but after being told the submarine he was being assigned to would not be ready for 6 months, he went across the hall and enlisted in the Army to be a paratrooper; and,

WHEREAS, Jim "Pee Wee" Martin, a Toccoa original, was a member of the "Screaming Eagle" division, some of the first Allied soldiers to set foot into occupied France. Mr. Martin was given the nickname "Pee Wee" during training for his small stature. He served with G Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 101st Airborne Division. In addition to parachuting into Normandy, Pee Wee also participated in Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge; and,

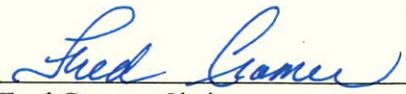
WHEREAS, Jim married Donna Veverka on March 10, 1946 and they purchased 50 acres of Sugarcreek Township land that following August. They chose Sugarcreek Township based on three things: no railroads, good clean water, and a short 30-minute commute for Jim to get to his Tool Manufacturing job in Dayton; and

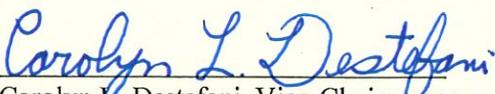
WHEREAS, together over the course of the following 10 years, Jim and Donna built their home from the ground up, paying as they went, beginning with the barn where they lived in until the house was completed. The Martins raised their 5 children in Sugarcreek Township and were married over seventy 70 years. Jim said goodbye to his beloved Donna in 2019 and lived in their home in Sugarcreek Township until his death on September 11, 2022; and,

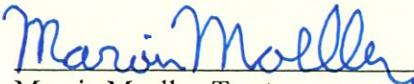
WHEREAS, Jim "Pee Wee" Martin is a hero in the eyes of all who knew him, yet he would say simply, "When you volunteer for something, train for something and are paid for something, you can't call yourself a hero"; and,

WHEREAS, to those lucky enough to be friends to him, as we were, Jim was a trusted advisor, an historian, and one of the last examples to us, and entire other generations, of service and sacrifice above self.

NOW THEREFORE, the Trustees of the Board of Sugarcreek Township hereby honors Sugarcreek Township resident, Mr. James H. "Pee Wee" Martin, recognizing his service during his life to his community, the world, and these United States of America.


Fred Cramer, Chairperson


Carolyn E. Destefani, Vice-Chairperson


Marvin Moeller, Trustee