

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-53

HONORING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DISTINGUISHED MILITARY CAREER OF STAFF SERGEANT RUSSELL TOBEL, RECOGNIZING HIS EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AND NAMING HIM THE 2017 RECIPIENT OF THE COLONEL WILLIAM H. BEYER COMMENDATION FOR OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE.

WHEREAS, SSG Russell Tobel honorably served our Nation as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, SSG Tobel was drafted in the Fall of 1966, and assigned with the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, positioned North and Northwest of Saigon, Vietnam and outward to the Cambodian border, a Platoon that participated in more combat operations than almost any other; and

WHEREAS, SSG Tobel was awarded the Silver Star, the third highest military decoration for valor, as well as the Purple Heart for gallantry in action, after participating in an Operation with a depleted Platoon that left him the sole American in an enemy base camp, where he hurled grenades and drove out adversaries, even after being hit by a grenade himself, and then walked with a wounded leg and back through the dense jungle and out of danger so as not to jeopardize the lives of those who might attempt to perform a helicopter rescue; and

WHEREAS, in a subsequent firefight, the recently promoted Platoon Sergeant Tobel led his men in to enemy territory, successfully attacking bunkers and overwhelming the opposition, earning his first Bronze Star, and went on to receive a second Bronze Star for overall meritorious service, as well as the Air Medal for participating in 25 or more combat assaults out of helicopters; and

WHEREAS, SSG Tobel faithfully served our Nation with courage and humility, ultimately risking his life to uphold the highest ideals of the United States Army and the United States of America, and credits his survival to luck, fate, skill and, most especially, his faith in God; and

WHEREAS, while the intense and extensive military career of SSG Tobel brought with it the loss of fellow soldiers and close friends and wreaked havoc on his body, leaving him with severe and enduring physical, emotional, and mental injuries, those around him describe Russ as a selfless, compassionate and humorous friend, one with an unceasing desire to help and serve others and an unwavering dedication to the flag that flies in his front yard, the people of this great Country, and the Veterans who fought and died to preserve our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, SSG Tobel is a member of American Legion Post 91 and VFW Post 3345, serving on the VFW Honor Guard, which participates in almost 100 ceremonies a year; and

WHEREAS, SSG Tobel's heroic actions during the Vietnam War, and subsequent service to Country, Community and his fellow Veterans, should be acknowledged and applauded by all Americans, most especially his friends and neighbors within the City of Berea.

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 SSG Russell Tobel and hereby names him the recipient of the 2017 Colonel William H. Beyer Commendation for Outstanding Military Service.

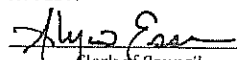
SECTION 2. That the President and all Members of Council, the Mayor and the Members of the Administration and the residents of the City of Berea do, with full and thankful hearts, recognize and commend SSG Tobel for his extraordinary efforts in the United States Army and extend to him, his wife, Linda, 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.

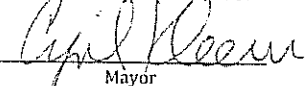
PASSED: November 20, 2017


President of Council

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council

APPROVED: November 20, 2017


Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Director of Law