

BY ALDS. MURPHY, WITKOWSKI, PEREZ, COGGS, KOVAC, DUDZIK, BOHL

Resolution recognizing Merrill's Marauders on the occasion of their 68th reunion.

WHEREAS,

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

gathered for their 68th reunion August 29 - 31, 2014, in Milwaukee at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 6401 S. 13th St., a grand event that brought many of the surviving members together; and

WHEREAS, *In 1943, almost 3,000 men from the jungles of Panama and Trinidad, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, New Georgia and the United States answered President Franklin D. Roosevelt's call for a secret "dangerous and hazardous" mission not knowing where they were going or what they would be doing; and*

WHEREAS, *When the volunteers landed in Bombay, India, on October 31, 1943, they didn't have a unit designation – that came on January 1, 1944, when they were named the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, code-named "Galahad," and later nicknamed "Merrill's Marauder"s by the press after their commander, Gen. Frank D. Merrill; and*

WHEREAS, *No other American fighting force in WW II (except the 1st Marine Division, which took and held Guadalcanal for four months) had as much uninterrupted jungle fighting service as Merrill's Marauders, and the unit fought five major battles and 30 minor engagements to successfully defeat the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th Division, who vastly outnumbered them; and*

WHEREAS, *Capturing the Myitkyina Airstrip in Burma crushed the Japanese stranglehold on air transport and enabled the Allies to begin flying supplies into Burma, making it possible for the Ledo and Burma roads to be connected, providing a crucial pathway into China; and*

WHEREAS, *The City of Milwaukee is grateful to the family of one of its native sons, the late William Binter, who was a medic with Merrill's Marauders; and*

WHEREAS, *For their accomplishments in Burma, the Marauders were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, and have the extremely rare distinction of every member of the unit receiving the Bronze Star, and bravery by Merrill's Marauders resulted in six Distinguished Service Crosses, four Legions of Merit and 44 Silver Stars being awarded; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes the dedicated and decorated Merrill's Marauders, and welcomes reunion members to Milwaukee, and extends its best wishes for a successful and enjoyable reunion; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Merrill's Marauders.*

Introduced by Common Council members Michael J. Murphy, Terry L. Witkowski, José G. Pérez, Milele A. Coggs, Nik Kovac, Joe Dudzik and Jim Bohl and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on September 3, 2014.