

**Office of the Mayor
Township of Bordentown
Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter NJ899 was chartered by the National Vietnam Veterans of America organization in August of 2002; the first President was Alfred Corbella III and it was formed by a group of 25 Vietnam Veterans that wanted to be organized to assist other Vietnam Veterans with completing claims, seeking benefits and health care. They hold their meetings the 4th Saturday of every month at the Bordentown Township Senior Center for the last 13 years and their national motto for Vietnam Veterans of America is “**Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another**”; and

WHEREAS, the VVA899 was very active at McGuire and Fort Dix for 11 years seeing Troops off to Iraq and Afghanistan, (Approx. 68,000) and welcoming them home at Fort Dix Bravo Company (Approx. 52,000), assisting the USO to cook breakfast, lunch or late night snacks for the soldiers leaving or returning from Theater; and

WHEREAS, the VVA899 visited soldiers that were in Warrior Transition Unit, (Medical Hold Over), at Fort Dix, to play cards, shoot pool, bringing them food and assisting them in filing claims for VA benefits; and

WHEREAS, the VVA899 made trips to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., to visit soldiers that were recovering, getting prosthesis, and those getting training for lost limbs, (due to IED explosions). They brought sundry items, books and writing materials for all patients; and

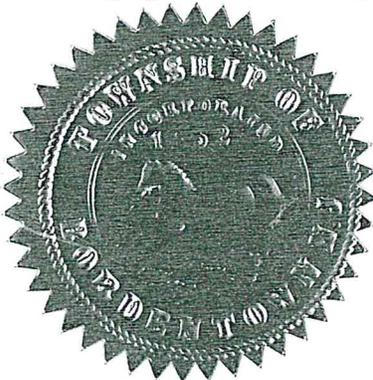
WHEREAS, the VVA899 made trips to Washington D.C, Vietnam Memorial and WWII Memorial bringing WWII Veterans, the Korean War Memorial bringing Korean Veterans. They support the Cherry Hill Stand Down for South Jersey with volunteer work and donations at the Armory; and

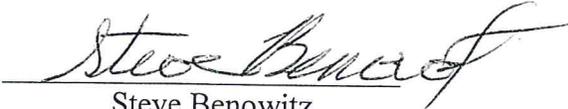
WHEREAS, the VVA899 organized the “Mission of Honor” for the burial of abandoned Veterans cremains and encouraged Governor Corzine to sign legislation making an amendment to the law, by allowing the **Mission of Honor** to adopt the abandoned veteran cremains that were left in funeral homes and to give them a proper burial in a veterans cemetery that included the VVA899 Honor Guard and Rifle Squad; and

WHEREAS, the VVA899 started a PTSD support group that is recognized by the Veterans Administration of Philadelphia that meets every Monday at the Garden State Diner in Wrightstown and many articles were written in the newspapers regarding this outreach; they support local veterans events in the Bordentown Community for Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, the current officers of the VVA899 include President, Bill West, 1st VP Charles Davies, 2nd VP Dale Watson, 3rd VP, Ordway Van Hee, Secretary, John Lesko, Treasurer, Don Mohr, Board of Directors are Louis Kocsis, Tony Laudicina, Brian Dumont, Lynn Gsell, Ted Yadlosky, Mel Waring, Donald Smieszek and AVVA Rep. Betty Kleber.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Benowitz, Mayor, of Bordentown Township, County of Burlington, and State of New Jersey do hereby proclaim that the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter NJ899 be recognized as an outstanding organization that seeks to improve the benefit of fellow veterans and for our silent unclaimed veterans.




Steve Benowitz
Mayor