



COUNTY OF ERIE

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
COUNTY CLERK

May 7, 2025

The Honorable Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Proposed Resolution for Acceptance of Wall of Honor Donation

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached proposed Resolution seeks approval for acceptance of the donation of the “Wall of Honor” by the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park.

The Wall of Honor was granted a temporary home in Old County Hall in January 2019 as part of a joint agreement between the Erie County Clerk’s Office, Department of Public Works, and the Naval & Military Park (attached here for reference), and it has proudly been on display ever since. Now, in light of the Naval & Military Park seeking new ways to honor veterans, it has graciously offered to permanently donate the Wall of Honor to the Clerk’s Office. There are no new fiscal considerations in accepting this donation as the Wall of Honor would simply be staying where it is for the public to continue to view and celebrate the brave men and women who sacrifice for our country.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If your Honorable Body requires further information, kindly contact the Erie County Clerk’s Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael P. Kearns". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M".

MICHAEL P. KEARNS
Erie County Clerk

MPK/wal

Encl.

**STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

**A Resolution Submitted by the Erie County Clerk
Re: Acceptance of Wall of Honor for Erie County Clerk's Office**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Clerk's Office has long recognized the invaluable sacrifice of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Clerk's Office offers services in gratitude of local veterans including the Clerk's "S.A.L.U.T.E.S." Program; "Thank A Vet" Discount Program; the Gold Star Families Discount Programs; and recording in the William J. Donovan Purple Heart Recipients Book of Merit; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Clerk's Office proudly collaborates with multiple veterans organizations throughout Western New York, including the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park created a "Wall of Honor" in 2011 to allow Western New Yorkers the opportunity to pay tribute and remembrance to those veterans they hold dear; and

WHEREAS, those on the Wall of Honor need not be military heroes- although some certainly qualify- they simply need to have answered the call when our country needed them and served honorably; and

WHEREAS, the Wall of Honor was originally displayed on the second floor of the Naval Park's Museum Building, before being moved to the Naval Park's Hangar Building in 2015 due to its massive popularity; and

WHEREAS, over the years, dozens of ceremonies have been held honoring the names and legacies that the Wall of Honor holds; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Naval Park made plans to renovate the Hangar Building with construction slated to begin in the spring of 2019, requiring a new home for the Wall of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns generously offered a temporary home for the Wall of Honor in the lobby of Old County Hall during the construction period; and

WHEREAS, an agreement was signed in January 2019 between the Erie County Clerk's Office, the Erie County Department of Public Works, and the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park for the free, temporary loan of the Wall of Honor for display in the lobby of Old County Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park is exploring new ways of honoring veterans and has graciously offered to donate the Wall of Honor to the Erie County Clerk's Office permanently; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Clerk's Office is deeply honored and privileged to have the opportunity to make the Wall of Honor a permanent fixture in Old County Hall, where it has proudly been displayed since 2019, and to continue to honor the men and women that have served and sacrificed for our country; and

WHEREAS, there are no new fiscal considerations at issue as the Wall of Honor is being donated, and it is already on display in Old County Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Clerk's Office is hereby authorized to accept the donation of the Wall of Honor for continued public viewing in Old County Hall; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Clerk's Office is hereby authorized to continue to work with the Erie County Department of Public Works as necessary to preserve the Wall of Honor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Erie County Executive; the Erie County Department of Public Works; and the Erie County Clerk.



County of Erie

January 8, 2019

Mr. Paul J. Marzello Sr., President & CEO
Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Mr. Marzello,

Thank you for the honor of allowing the County Clerk's Office to display the "Wall of Honor" while the new Hangar Building of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park (hereafter "Park") is under construction.

This will acknowledge the agreement between the County of Erie's Clerk's Office and Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Park concerning the temporary loan to the Clerk's Office for display of the Wall of Honor in the lobby of Old County Hall. The County and the Park shall hold each other and their respective officers, agents, and employees harmless from and against any and all claims and liabilities for loss or damage other than losses or damages arising from the negligence or willful misconduct of the County or the Park resulting from or arising out of any act or omission by either the County or the Park, or its employees, agents, or other persons under either's control or supervision, and shall further agree to defend at their own respective cost and expense any action or proceeding commenced against them respectively arising out of this Agreement.

The display will be delivered to Old County Hall by the Park, mounted on the wall by DPW and upon completion of the construction or request of the Park, the display will be taken down by DPW and returned to the Park by Park personnel.

Again, thank you for the privilege of displaying the "Wall of Honor" in Erie County's Old County Hall.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Kearns
Erie County Clerk


William Geary, Commissioner
Erie County Department of Public Works

Agreement by the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park

Paul J. Marzello
President & CEO