

**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2012 A.D.**

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 27th day of September, 2012, A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan is a resident of the Town of Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan graduated from Annunciation High School and went to work as a copyboy for The Evening News; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callaha, after joining the military, was trained in the Army Air Forces' aerial gunnery school in Florida, and was later assigned to a B-17, also known as "The Flying Fortress," where he served as a turret gunner; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan flew bombing missions over Sicily, Italy from a base in North Africa; once the missions had succeeded, the crew was stationed in Sicily and flew bombing runs over the mainland of Italy, before moving further north in Italy and starting bombing runs on southern France, Germany and the Balkans, for a total of 50 combat missions; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan earned 10 Army Air Medals, and the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving his country; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan, wrote several first-person accounts of the aerial battles and sent them back to The News, which published them, including headlines such as "Buffalo Boy Finds Nazis Grown Bolder in Italian Air War" and "Former News Employee Downs Plane in Italy"; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan returned home to his job as copy boy, and attended Canisius College; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan went on to work as news editor at WBNY, and then accepted a job at the Buffalo Courier-Express as a police reporter, until ambition continued to call and he became a business reporter at the morning newspapers and eventually worked his way up to financial editor; and

WHEREAS, William F. Callahan retired from the newspaper when it ceased publication 30 years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and honor William F. Callahan for his commitment and services to his country and for his dedication and service to the community.

**Kevin R. Hardwick
Erie County Legislator – 4th District**

**Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature**