



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of Capt. William W. "Bill" Paty, Jr.

WHEREAS, Capt. William W. "Bill" Paty, Jr. was born in Honolulu in 1921 to William & Grace Paty, growing up on Robinson Lane in Nu'uuanu, named after the Mark A. Robinson estate for which Paty would later serve as a Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Bill Paty served as class president at his alma mater Punahou School, then joined the ROTC while studying agriculture at Cornell University, entering the military after graduation as a second lieutenant and eventually being deployed in World War II as a captain in charge of 120 men; and

WHEREAS, Bill Paty led A Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Regiment of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" Division parachuting with 6,700 other soldiers into the Cotentin peninsula as part of the "D Day" Allied invasion of Normandy, but after evasive maneuvers was dropped six miles from his unit's intended landing zone; and

WHEREAS, Bill Paty was eventually wounded, captured and held for seven months as a Prisoner of War in Nazi-occupied Poland with 1,200 other soldiers, attempting escape three times until finally eluding his captors in a bale of hay, later receiving the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and a POW medal for his service and going on to assist as civilian aide emeritus for the military in the Pacific since 1994; and

WHEREAS, Bill Paty married his late wife Marguerite "Peggy" Marie in Denver in 1945, raising their five children in Hawai'i where Paty worked for Waialua Sugar Co. for 38 years as a plantation manager, retiring as president in 1984 and serving as chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources from 1984 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, Bill Paty was chairman of the historic 1978 Constitutional Convention in Hawai'i, the "people's convention" made up of mostly nonelected officials who passed 34 amendments, setting term limits and supporting Hawaiian culture; and

WHEREAS, Bill Paty gave and continues to give his time and service to groups and organizations in different capacities, including President of the Aloha Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and has received numerous awards, including "Kama'aina of the Year" with his wife Peggy from the Historic Hawai'i foundation, a 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pacific Business News, and the renaming by Honolulu City Council of a portion of the Kaiaka Bay Beach Park after him and his wife for their landmark efforts to preserve the area for their great-great-grandchildren and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim June 6, 2014, as

"BILL PATY DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in honoring the courageous service of Capt. Bill Paty on "D Day" and as a POW, and recognizing the lifetime of contributions he has made to improve life in Hawai'i.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifth day of June, 2014.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i