

SERB NATIONAL FEDERATION

DANE A. MEDICH, PRESIDENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The AMERICAN LEGION POST 22 Family, located in Charleroi, PA, The Mitchell Paige Memorial Committee of Charleroi, Scott Honsacker-Chairman, The Kurtz Monument Company of 267 E. Maiden Street, Washington, PA-Scott Harden-Owner, Mitchell Paige Historian-Brian Dimitrovich, and Family and Friends who celebrate Mitchell Paige, the American Hero, and “Home Town Hero”, born in Charleroi, PA, and acknowledge the historically significant accomplishment and support efforts to “gain awareness” of this recipient of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Mitchell Paige U.S.M.C. (Serbian: Михајло Пејић /Mihajlo Pejić) (Aug/31/18–Nov/15/03) was a recipient of the Medal of Honor from World War II. He received this, the highest military honor awarded by the United States of America, for his actions at the Battle of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands on October 26, 1942, where, after all of the other Marines in his platoon were killed or wounded, he operated four machine guns, singlehandedly stopping an entire Japanese regiment. Gen. Douglas MacArthur said the Marines' stirring work that night--maintaining America's hold on the airfield, even though they were outnumbered more than 30 to 1--was a turning point in the Pacific Theatre of World War II; and

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged and factual that Mitchell Paige was born in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. His parents were Serbian immigrants who arrived in the United States from the Military Frontier of Austria-Hungary, their last name being Pejić. His mother kept him and his brother in touch with their roots, reminding them of the Battle of Kosovo, but also told them to be proud Americans. His family later moved to the Camden Hills neighborhood of West Mifflin. He graduated from McKeesport High School before enlisting in the US Marines; and

WHEREAS, The Serb National Federation, the largest and oldest organization of the Serbian Community in the United States of America, is eternally grateful and proud of the heroism and display of true character and selfless sacrifice of our Serbian Sons, on the battlefields, throughout history; and

WHEREAS, Mitchell Paige is an exemplary figure of “Serbian Valor”---a “Supreme Character Trait”, borne on the fields of Kosovo in 1389, continuing to be present through the sacrifices representing of the loss of 25% of the Serbian male population during the “War to End All Wars”, exemplified in the heroic exploits of those same Serbian People who sacrificed and supported “**Operation Halyard**” a WWII Allied Airlift operation executed behind Axis lines during July 1944, resulting in the rescue of 525 downed U.S. and Allied Airmen, to the heroic example of Captain Lance Sijan, U.S.A.F., Medal of Honor Recipient, as a pilot during the Vietnam War, who was also of Serbian decent; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Lance A. Medich, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Serb National Federation, do hereby congratulate The Mitchell Paige Memorial Committee of Charleroi and the friends of the organization on the placement of this Memorial, and thank them to propel the story of +Lieutenant Colonel Paige, Memory Eternal. “Vjecnaja Pamjat”, to an American Hero of Serbian decent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Serb National Federation to be affixed this 3rd day of July, 2021.

Dane A. Medich

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