

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

Seymour Nussenbaum The Ghost Army

- WHEREAS,** during World War II, in the European Theatre of Operations, the American GIs of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133 Signal Service Company, also known as The Ghost Army, wielded creativity and illusion to fool the German Army on the battlefields of Europe; and
- WHEREAS,** employing inflatable tanks and artillery, radio deception, sound equipment, and impersonation, Ghost Army soldiers contrived to confound Hitler's legions about where actual Allied fighting units were. They carried out more than 20 top-secret deception missions, risking their lives to divert enemy attention from real operations and save thousands of lives; and
- WHEREAS,** Private Seymour Nussenbaum served in the 603rd Camouflage Engineers, the visual deception arm of the 23rd, that worked with the inflatable tanks and trucks. An artist, he took camouflage classes at Pratt Institute before enlisting in the Army. As part of the deception efforts, he worked in the 603rd's "factory section," cranking out fake divisional patches to use in the deceptions. He estimates that he and his fellow soldiers created 40,000 fake patches; and
- WHEREAS,** at war's end he went to work creating two detailed scrapbooks of his sketches and memorabilia from the war. They are now part of the Ghost Army collection at the National WWII Museum; and
- WHEREAS,** he graduated from Hofstra University with a BA degree in history/political science
- WHEREAS,** in 1949, Seymour married his wife Vera, a German Jew who escaped the Holocaust by leaving on a Kindertransport in 1938. Vera passed away in 2016; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress has honored Seymour Nussenbaum and his fellow comrades-in-arms by awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to these units, collectively known as The Ghost Army, for their "unique and highly distinguished service during World War II." The president signed this legislation into law on February 1, 2022

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN DALINA, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim **March 26, 2022** as Seymour Nussenbaum Day in Monroe Township. We honor and thank Mr. Nussenbaum for his service to our Country and our community.

Dated: March 26, 2022


STEPHEN DALINA, MAYOR