

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-051 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES LOUIS WEIR, WORLD WAR II VETERAN

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

June 6, 2024, marked the 80th. anniversary of the start of Operation Overlord, which was launched by the unprecedented D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy. This operation concentrated the land, sea, and air forces of twelve allied nations in a high-stakes invasion of Nazi-occupied France.

During World War II all American men between the ages of 21 and 45 had to register for the draft. By 1944 50 million had registered and ten million had been inducted into the military. Draft numbers for men in their forties were being called by 1944 as the military ramped up for the European invasion.

In May 1944, the Western Allies were ready for the long-delayed cross-channel invasion of northern France, code-named Overlord. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was supreme commander of the operation that coordinated the efforts of twelve nations.

Surprise was an essential element of the Allied invasion plan. If the Germans had known where and when the Allies were approaching, they would have hurled them back into the sea with the fifty-five divisions they had in France. The Allies would have been on the offensive with a 10-to-1 manpower ratio against them.

The Nazis had spent months constructing the Atlantic Wall, a 2,400-mile line of obstacles. This defensive wall comprised 6.5 million mines, thousands of concrete bunkers and pillboxes containing heavy and fast-firing artillery, tens of thousands of tank ditches and other formidable beach obstacles.

Mr. James Weir, or as his friends refer to him, Pap-pap, grew up in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, near to Pittsburgh. He enlisted into the United States Navy in August of 1943. He fought on behalf of our nation, in Europe and Asia. On June 6, 1944, Coxswain Weir crossed the English Channel aboard a Landing Craft Tanks (Amphibious) to deliver tanks and troops onto the beaches of Normandy. After the battle was won in Europe, Coxswain Weir fought in the liberation of the Philippines, and was deployed to Japan as part of the occupational forces after the war.

In-between those momentous historical events, Coxswain Weir was granted a twenty day leave after D-Day. He rushed back to the states to marry his sweetheart, Laverne Myers. They had been sweethearts since he had sat behind her in sixth grade. They were married for 73 years. Laverne passed away in 2018.

After the war, Coxswain Weir worked as a master electrician and was a renowned Corvette racer, leading the national Corvette Club as its President. Coxswain Weir now lives in Miami, Florida., He has two grandchildren and six great grandchildren who love him dearly. He lives with his granddaughter Lisa and her family.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MONICA COLUCCI:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-051, recognizing Mr. James Louis Weir, World War II Veteran.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-051 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING MR. JAMES LOUIS WEIR, WORLD WAR II VETERAN**

WHEREAS, Mr. James Weir, or as his friends refer to him, Pap-pap, grew up in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg;

WHEREAS, Mr. Weir enlisted into the United States Navy in August of 1943, and fought on behalf of our nation, in Europe and Asia;

WHEREAS, June 6, 2024, marked the 80th. anniversary of the start of Operation Overlord, which was launched by the unprecedented D-Day landings on the beaches of Normandy;

WHEREAS, This operation concentrated the land, sea, and air forces of twelve allied nations in a high-stakes invasion of Nazi-occupied France;

WHEREAS, Coxswain Weir crossed the English Channel aboard a Landing Craft Tanks (Amphibious) to deliver tanks and troops onto the beaches of Normandy for the D-Day landings;

WHEREAS, After the battle was won in Europe, Coxswain Weir fought in the liberation of the Philippines, and was deployed to Japan as part of the occupational forces after the war;

WHEREAS, After the war, Coxswain Weir worked as a master electrician and was a renowned Corvette racer, leading the national Corvette Club as its President. Coxswain Weir now lives in Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Coxswain Weir, is part of the heroes commonly referred to as “The Greatest Generation,” born between the 1900’s and 1920’s, where many of them fought in World War II.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-051 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Mr. James Louis Weir, World War II Veteran.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twenty-fourth day of July, A. D. 2024

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary