

**COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
TOWN BOARD WORK MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009-Page 1**

Supervisor Louis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Also attending: Councilwoman McKeon, Councilmen Norris and Byas, Highway Superintendent Jordan, Tax Collector Stuart, Town Clerk Brooks, and over 50 members of the public. Absent: none.

Supervisor Louis thanked everyone for coming to this Work Meeting and announced that there was one order of business for the Board, to honour a lifelong resident of New Baltimore on the occasion of a special anniversary. Supervisor Louis introduced local attorney and professor, Theodore Hilscher, student of history, to explain the significance of this occurrence.

Mr. Hilscher began that it was a privilege and honor to say a few words about a friend and neighbour. Sixty-five years ago, American landed in Normandy, France and set out to move east into Germany with the goal being to capture Germany and the Rhine River by way of the Huertgen Forest. In November 1944, Fran Williams is a 19year old serving in the 22nd Infantry regiment of the 4th Division, which was one of 5 fighting in the Huertgen Forest. Overcoming severe wintry conditions, thick forestation, and stiff German resistance (soldiers, mines, and booby traps), the 4th Division took 18 days to advance 3 miles, starting in mid-November and got out in mid-December and suffered over 6000 casualties total (2000 per mile). Sixty-five years ago a week from tomorrow, Fran was wounded twice, received treatment, and sent back to the front lines and was part of the successful capture of Germany in May 1945, which was the end of the war in Europe. (applause)

Mr. Hilscher had framed personal correspondence from former President George H.W. Bush to Fran Williams, bringing good wishes, greetings, and thanks.

Supervisor introduced Amanda Boomhower, aide to U.S. Congressman Scott Murphy, who, thanking the Town for an event honouring veterans, gave to Fran Williams, on behalf of Congressional District, a certificate of recognition and presented a flag flown over the Capitol.

Supervisor read the resolution adopted on November 9, 2009 by the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore.

**RESOLUTION
NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

**RESOLUTION HONORING FRANCIS WILLIAMS
ON THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BRAVERY AND SERVICE
TO HIS COUNTRY AT THE BATTLE OF THE HUERTGEN FOREST**

WHEREAS, Francis Williams, a lifelong resident of the Town of New Baltimore, joined with many other brave American soldiers in serving their country during World War II, and

WHEREAS, at the age of 19, Francis Williams was assigned to Company F, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, 1st Army, sweeping eastward from France into Germany after the Normandy Invasion, and

WHEREAS, on December 1st, 1944, near the end of the 18-day Battle of the Huertgen Forest in Germany, Francis Williams incurred wounds during this intense fighting, which resulted in the loss of over 6,000 American soldiers, and

WHEREAS, Francis Williams, after being wounded, was transported to England, recovered from his wounds, and returned to combat in February, 1945 and continued his military service until receiving an Honorable Discharge on February 5, 1946, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his bravery and military accomplishments, Francis Williams received the American Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Purple Heart, and

**COUNTY OF GREENE
TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009-Page 2**

WHEREAS, Francis Williams, after returning to New Baltimore, continued a proud record of service in his community, including 14 years of service as the Town Superintendent of Highways, and

WHEREAS, this record of bravery and service to our country by Francis Williams and the dwindling number of living veterans of World War II merits recognition and remembrance to honor all who defended our country during World War II, both living and deceased.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Baltimore does hereby acknowledge the significance of December 1, 2009, as the 65th anniversary of Francis Williams' participation as a brave young soldier in the Battle of the Huertgen Forest and hereby honors Francis Williams for his bravery and service to his country and community, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be suitably framed and presented to Francis Williams.

Applause followed. Francis Williams offered comments to the group assembled, "...You would've done the same thing as me. You all help out with everything you can. You help the veterans... God bless you. What the moms of the soldiers go through, and I don't know what my mom went through, and the poor fellows who never come back; they're the real heroes."

With no more from the Board or the public, Councilwoman McKeon moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Byas.

Motion Carried Ayes- 3 McKeon, Louis, , Byas
Nays- 0
Absent- 1 Norris

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Punch and cookies had been provided by the Jim and Donna Kellam family, Francis Williams' daughter.

Respectfully,

Janet A. Brooks
Town Clerk