



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

R. Edwin Wilt
Legislator - District 1

Frank X. Allkofer
Legislator - District 4

George J. Hebert
Legislator - District 15

March 9, 2021

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No. 210117
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
URGENT -1

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Authorize the Renaming of the South Avenue Section of Highland Park in Honor of Gary Beikirch

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body authorize the renaming of the South Avenue and Highland Avenue corner section of Highland Park, on which resides the Vietnam Memorial and the site of the future War on Terror Memorial, in honor of Gary Beikirch. This would not disturb the names of the individual Memorials but instead encompass the land on which they reside.

Sergeant Gary Beikirch (born August 29, 1947) is a former United States Army soldier and Special Forces Medic who was awarded the United States Military's highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his actions in Vietnam.

While serving as a medic with Company B of the 5th Special Forces Group, Beikirch was stationed at Dak Seang Camp, home to Montagnard villager and fighters, in the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum. On April 1, 1970, the camp was attacked by a numerically superior North Vietnamese force. Sgt Beikirch was wounded numerous times during this battle, in the end sustaining shrapnel wounds to his back and bullet wounds to his stomach. While the battle raged, Beikirch fought back with mortar rounds and then from machine gun positions. Learning that a fellow soldier was wounded and lying in an exposed position, he ran through heavy fire in order to attend to those wounds but was hit with shrapnel during that movement which severed part of his spine, partially paralyzing him. At this point, Sgt Beikirch instructed his fellow Montagnard soldiers that they would need to physically carry him from one position to the next in order to attend to the wounded. As Sgt Beikirch was providing mouth to mouth resuscitation to a fellow soldier he was again wounded in the side and then shot in the stomach. Despite his wounds he continued to provide care to his fellow American and Montagnard soldiers as he was carried around the camp on a stretcher while firing his rifle at the enemy.

For his actions at Dak Seang, Beikrich was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Nixon. His other awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal, two Purple Hearts and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Gary dedicated the rest of his life in service to God and his fellow men and women. He worked as a Pastor and received his Master's Degree in Counseling. Gary finished his career as a Greece Arcadia Middle School Guidance Counselor.

The specific legislative action required is to authorize the renaming of the South Avenue and Highland Avenue corner section of Highland Park, on which resides the Vietnam Memorial and the site of the future War on Terror Memorial, in honor of Gary Beikirch.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(26) ("routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

The renaming of this section of Highland Park will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures of the current Monroe County budget.

We recommend that this matter receive favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,



Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive



R. Edwin Wilt
Monroe County Legislator
District 1



Frank X. Allkofer
Monroe County Legislator
District 4



George J. Hebert
Monroe County Legislator
District 15

By Legislators _____ and _____

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2021

**AUTHORIZING THE RENAMING OF THE SOUTH AVENUE SECTION OF HIGHLAND
PARK IN HONOR OF GARY BEIKIRCH**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. The renaming of the South Avenue and Highland Avenue corner section of Highland Park, on which resides the Vietnam Memorial and the site of the future War on Terror Memorial, in honor of Gary Beikirch is hereby authorized.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

File No. 21-_____

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION: _____