

WELCOME GUY and PATRICIA SARKISSIAN

WHEREAS, Guy Sarkissian is a citizen of Paris, France and a member of the *Union Nationale des Combattants*; and

WHEREAS, as a representative of that organization Mr. Sarkissian was instrumental in the two-year awards process that led to Grand Islander and WWII Veteran Joseph "L'il Joe" Stefaniak being presented with the French Legion of Honor in November 2008 for heroic actions as a United States Army Paratrooper in Normandy, France in June, 1944 ; and

WHEREAS, L'il Joe passed away in October, 2010 before the Sarkissian's could meet him personally; and

WHEREAS, Charles N. DeGlopper Post 9249 Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post 1346, both on Grand Island, New York are hosting the Sarkissians on a visit to meet the family of Joseph Stefaniak; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Grand Island officially welcomes Guy and Patricia Sarkissian to Grand Island and gratefully recognizes the effort to honor L'il Joe Stefaniak with the French Legion of Honor.

BE IT FURTHER REOLVED that this same Town Board thanks the Sarkissians for continuing to honor the memory of L'il Joe by participating in today's Memorial Ceremony at DeGlopper Park, named in memory of Charles N. DeGlopper, Grand Island's Medal of Honor recipient.

This same Town Board urges all citizens to remember with gratitude the men and women of this country who have risked their lives, and continue to do so, in defense of the freedoms that we continue to enjoy as American Citizens.

Proclaimed on this day, May 22, 2011 at DeGlopper Park, Grand Island, New York

Peter A. McMahon, Supervisor

Mary S. Cooke, Councilwoman

Richard W. Crawford, Jr., Councilman

Gary G. Roesch, Councilman

Raymond A. Billica, Councilman

