

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY- AUGUST 16, 2024

WHEREAS, the Parachute Test Platoon, composed of 48 volunteers, was authorized by the War Department on June 25, 1940 to experiment with the potential use of airborne troops, began training in July 1940 and performed the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Parachute Test Platoon led to the formation of a large and successful airborne contingent serving in World War II to the present; and

WHEREAS, the 82nd Airborne Division was the first Airborne Division organized, the Airborne Association exists to honor the memory of 82nd Airborne Division Troopers and the U.S. Senate passed the National Airborne Day Resolution on July 6, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Grand Island, New York is the birthplace and final resting place in Maple Grove Cemetery of Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper (MOH), posthumously awarded the Nation's Highest Award - Medal of Honor - for his heroic and selfless actions while serving as a member of Company "C" First Battalion, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, at La Fiere, France on June 9, 1944; and

WHEREAS, Grand Island is the birthplace and final resting place in St. Stephen Cemetery of Lt. Col. Terrance K. Crowe, trained Airborne Trooper serving with the 98th Airborne Division and killed by hostile fire while part of offensive operations in Tal Afar, Iraq on June 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the DeGlopper Memorial, dedicated on June 5, 2021, was expanded to honor all the Island's veterans including tributes for those killed in action; and

WHEREAS, the members of *Association U.S. Normandie* and their volunteers continue to maintain the WWII Veteran Monuments in France and organize annual memorial ceremonies with a special one this year commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Grand Island does hereby proclaim August 16, 2024

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

in the Town of Grand Island and encourages its citizens to observe and commemorate this historic event.

Proclaimed at the Town Board Meeting August 5, 2024

, Supervisor

, Councilman

, Councilman

, Councilman