

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
340 FRANKLIN AVENUE
WYCKOFF, NEW JERSEY**

ORDINANCE #2078

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 165 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF ENTITLED "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS" TO ADD THE NEXT SEQUENTIAL ARTICLE ESTABLISHING AN HONORARY AND COMMEMORATIVE STREET SIGN DESIGNATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff desires to honor and recognize individuals with a documented connection to the Township who made extraordinary sacrifices in service to the United States of America, including those who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces or as police officers, firefighters, or emergency medical services personnel, and those who were Prisoners of War or recipients of the Medal of Honor, Service Cross, or Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee finds that establishing an objective and transparent process for honorary and commemorative street sign designations will allow the Township to provide appropriate recognition while maintaining the integrity of official street naming, addressing, mapping, and emergency response systems; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further finds that honorary and commemorative street sign designations are ceremonial and supplemental in nature and are intended to be limited to specific eligibility criteria, and that any official change to a street name must be considered separately and adopted by ordinance in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee also recognizes the need for a uniform review and approval process that includes consideration of public safety, sign placement feasibility, and maintenance responsibilities in coordination with the Department of Public Works, Police Department, and Township Engineer, as applicable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wyckoff, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings and purpose.

- A. The Township Committee finds that it is in the public interest to recognize individuals with a significant and documented connection to the Township of Wyckoff who made extraordinary sacrifices in service to the United States of America or who received certain distinguished honors for military service, and to recognize those who died in the line of duty serving as police officers, firefighters, or emergency medical services personnel.
- B. The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish an objective, transparent, and administrable process for the placement of honorary and commemorative street signs on existing streets, while preserving the integrity of official street naming, addressing, mapping, emergency response, and governmental records.

- C. This program is intended to be specific and limited. Service alone, without meeting the criteria set forth herein, does not qualify.

SECTION 2. Amendment to Code.

Chapter 165 of the Code of the Township of Wyckoff, entitled "Streets and Sidewalks," is hereby amended as follows:

- A. Sections 165-73 through 165-80, inclusive, are hereby reserved for future use.
- B. The next sequential Article, Article IV, of Chapter 165 is hereby added to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV. HONORARY AND COMMEMORATIVE STREET SIGN DESIGNATIONS

§ 165-81. Title.

This Article shall be known as the "Honorary and Commemorative Street Sign Designation Program."

§ 165-82. Nature of designation. Official street name remains unchanged. Separate ordinance required for renaming.

- A. An honorary or commemorative street sign designation authorized by this Article is ceremonial and supplemental in nature and does not alter the official street name for any governmental, postal, mapping, addressing, or E-911 purpose.
- B. Nothing in this Article authorizes or effectuates a change to the official name of any street or public right of way within the Township.
- C. The Township Committee retains its authority under applicable law to rename a street by separate ordinance when it determines such action is appropriate. In evaluating whether to pursue an official street name change, the Township Committee may consider whether the street or street segment has any assigned property addresses or improvements that would be impacted for postal, mapping, or emergency response purposes. Any official street name change, if pursued, shall be addressed by a separate ordinance and shall not be governed by this Article.

§ 165-83. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- A. Applicant means the individual, family member, organization, or group submitting an application.
- B. Commemorative sign means the supplemental sign installed in connection with an approved designation.

- C. Honoree means the person recognized by a commemorative sign.
- D. Line of duty death means a death occurring while performing official duties as a member of the United States Armed Forces, or while performing official duties as a police officer, firefighter, or emergency medical services personnel, as documented by official records.
- E. Police officer means a sworn law enforcement officer employed by a public law enforcement agency.
- F. Firefighter means an individual serving in a paid or volunteer capacity with a public fire department, fire district, or volunteer fire company providing fire protection services.
- G. EMS means an individual serving in a paid or volunteer capacity as an emergency medical technician, paramedic, or other emergency medical responder with an EMS agency or volunteer first aid or ambulance organization.
- H. Service Cross means the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, as documented by official military records.
- I. Silver Star means the United States military decoration known as the Silver Star Medal, as documented by official military records.
- J. Medal of Honor means the United States military decoration known as the Medal of Honor, as documented by official military records.
- K. POW means Prisoner of War, as recognized by official military records.

§ 165-84. Eligibility.

- A. Eligible categories. An Honoree shall be eligible only if the Honoree meets at least one of the following:
 - 1. Line of duty death while serving in the United States Armed Forces.
 - 2. Line of duty death while serving as a police officer, firefighter, or EMS.
 - 3. POW status.
 - 4. Recipient of the Medal of Honor.
 - 5. Recipient of a Service Cross.
 - 6. Recipient of the Silver Star.
- B. Wyckoff connection required. In addition to subsection A, the Honoree must meet at least one of the following:
 - 1. The Honoree was a resident of Wyckoff at the time of enlistment, commissioning, or entry into qualifying service.
 - 2. The Honoree was a resident of Wyckoff at the time of discharge, retirement, or separation from qualifying service.
 - 3. The Honoree was a resident of Wyckoff at the time of death.
 - 4. For police officers, firefighters, or EMS personnel, the Honoree served in Wyckoff, or was assigned to a Wyckoff-based agency or

organization providing services within the Township, at the time of the qualifying event or at the time of death, as applicable.

C. Proof required.

1. Military documentation shall include a DD Form 214 and, as applicable, official military orders, citations, or other official documentation establishing POW status, decoration, or a line of duty death.
2. Police, fire, or EMS documentation shall include a letter or certification from the appointing authority, agency, or organization and documentation sufficient to establish a line of duty death where applicable.
3. Residency documentation shall include at least one reliable document demonstrating Wyckoff residency for the relevant time period, which may include tax records, voter registration, deed or lease, driver's license, utility bills, school records, or other comparable documentation acceptable to the Township Administrator in consultation with the Municipal Clerk. The Township Committee may require additional documentation to establish bona fide residency and may consider the totality of the circumstances in making that determination.

§ 165-85. Application, review, and referral.

- A. Applications shall be submitted to the Municipal Clerk on a form established by the Township Administrator in consultation with the Municipal Clerk and shall include, at minimum, the Honoree's identifying information, eligibility category, supporting documentation, proposed street segment or location, proposed sign wording, and applicant contact information.
- B. Upon receipt, the Township Administrator and Municipal Clerk shall review the application for completeness. Complete applications shall be forwarded for review and comment to the Department of Public Works, Police Department, and Township Engineer as deemed necessary for placement feasibility, maintenance considerations, and public safety.
- C. If the proposed location is within a county or state right of way, or otherwise requires a permit or approval from another agency, the Township may require evidence of such approval as a condition of final approval and installation.

§ 165-86. Approval by resolution. Limitations and competing requests.

- A. No designation shall be authorized except by resolution adopted by the Township Committee. The Township Committee retains discretion to approve, modify, or deny any application consistent with this Article, including discretion to modify location, wording, and duration.

- B. As a general rule, the Township shall approve no more than one honorary or commemorative street sign designation for any single street segment as defined in the approving resolution.
- C. The Township Committee may approve a joint designation for more than one Honoree on the same street segment only where the Honorees share a direct and substantial connection, such as a common incident or event, or other circumstances the Township Committee finds warrant joint recognition.
- D. Where multiple eligible applications request the same street segment, the Township Committee may deny one or more applications, approve an alternate segment or location, approve a joint designation under subsection C, or defer action, in order to preserve program consistency, avoid sign clutter, and maintain public safety. Approval of any designation shall not create a precedent, entitlement, or priority for additional designations on the same street or segment.

§ 165-87. Sign standards and placement.

- A. The commemorative sign shall be of a standard design approved by the Department of Public Works and shall be installed as a supplemental sign in proximity to the official street name sign.
- B. The Department of Public Works shall determine final sign placement in consultation with the Police Department and Township Engineer as needed.
- C. The commemorative sign shall not obscure, replace, or interfere with any official street name sign or traffic control device.
- D. Sign wording. The commemorative sign wording shall be concise and standardized. It shall generally be limited to the Honoree's name. The Township Committee may, in its discretion, approve inclusion of a rank or title and a brief identifier of the Honoree's branch or type of service, such as U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, Police, Fire, or EMS. Where applicable, the Township Committee may also approve inclusion of a brief identifier of the qualifying basis for the designation, such as POW, Medal of Honor, Service Cross, or Silver Star. No other inscriptions, slogans, dedications, dates, or additional text shall be permitted.

§ 165-88. Duration and renewal.

Unless otherwise provided by the approving resolution, a designation shall be for a term of fifteen (15) years. The Township Committee may, in its sole discretion, renew a designation by resolution for additional fifteen (15) year periods. No new application shall be required for renewal.

§ 165-89. Costs, fabrication, installation, and ownership.

- A. Fee. The Applicant shall pay a fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) to the Township of Wyckoff for each approved honorary or commemorative street sign designation. The fee shall be due and payable upon adoption of the approving resolution and shall be paid in a form acceptable to the Township. No sign shall be fabricated or installed until the fee has been paid in full. The fee shall be non-refundable once paid.
- B. All signs shall be fabricated and installed through the Department of Public Works or its authorized vendor.
- C. Upon installation, the sign and hardware shall be Township property.

§ 165-90. Maintenance, replacement, and removal.

- A. The Department of Public Works shall maintain commemorative signs consistent with Township practices and subject to operational priorities.
- B. The Township may remove a commemorative sign temporarily or permanently due to construction, roadway improvements, utility work, safety concerns including visibility or sign clutter, repeated vandalism or theft, or direction by a county or state agency with jurisdiction.
- C. Removal of a commemorative sign shall not be deemed a change to the official street name.

SECTION 3. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. Effective date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.