

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *The Big Read* is a month-long series of free outreach events designed to promote literacy, reading and open dialogue within our community; the 2014 series will focus on author Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, a powerful collection of vignettes about the Vietnam War written from the soldier's perspective; and

WHEREAS, the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) is one of 77 organizations nationwide to receive a grant as part of The Big Read project by the National Endowment for the Arts; CCAC, along with its community partners, will host various Big Read events throughout the month, including: book discussions, guest speakers, dance and drama performances, and panel discussions, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, The Big Read was created in response to the 2004 National Endowment for the Arts report "Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America," which identified a critical decline in literary reading; the study showed that literary reading was declining among all age groups, with the steepest decline in the youngest age groups; and

WHEREAS, Allegheny County is committed to providing educational opportunities to our residents, such as The Big Read; literacy and open dialogue within the community is of vital importance to continue to grow and become a prosperous region; we are thankful for CCAC, its partners, staff, and volunteers for the work they have done to make The Big Read project a success.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2014 as "The Big Read Day" in Allegheny County and encourage all residents take part in the various Big Read events planned throughout the month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 3rd day of March, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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