

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Southwestern Veterans Center has chosen to honor Ms. Wanda Spiering as its 2014 Volunteer of the Year; in recognition of her dedication, a dinner and reception will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Wanda was born in New Kensington, Pennsylvania on April 19, 1919 to Louis and Magdalena Rutkowski, the fifth of six children;

**WHEREAS**, she attended Old Kensington High, now Valley High School, studying commercial courses and was graduated in 1938; after graduation, she worked at the New Kensington Murphy's 5 & 10 Cent Store, she cleaned houses for various families in New Kensington, and worked at Medice's Ice Cream Store;

**WHEREAS**, Wanda married her first husband, Walter Connell, and had a son, Walter D. "Denny" Connell; her husband was in the U.S. Army and while he was deployed, Wanda worked at General Electric Co. in New Kensington, in the Fuse Department and assembled tie rope indicator; Wanda and her newborn son lived with her mother since Walter was at war;

**WHEREAS**, Walter was killed on November 9, 1944 while on duty in France;

**WHEREAS**, in 1948, Wanda met James F. Spiering when she took her car in for repair work at the Studebaker Garage; Jim wanted to ask her out, but didn't have the nerve, so he left tools in her car and called her the next day to retrieve them; his ploy worked and the two were married in New Kensington;

**WHEREAS**, they purchased two acres of land in Lower Burrell where they built their own house and where Wanda still lives today; Wanda and James were blessed with three additional children: Veronica, James, and Alexander; she and Jim were married for 53 years before he passed away;

**WHEREAS**, throughout the years, Wanda and her husband were instrumental in the opening of St. Margaret Mary Church in Lower Burrell and, after its opening, extremely active in its many outreach activities, organizations, social activities and support efforts including the Ladies Guild, the church bazaar, prayer group, Candle ladies, Mercy dinners, as a CCD teacher, and as a quilt maker;

**WHEREAS**, Wanda's interests and hobbies spread far and wide: she loves traveling and is said to have a bit of gypsy in her – she has traveled to Texas, Hawaii, Florida, Missouri, and Lancaster, Ohio; she is an avid gardener, growing flowers in the front of her house and also enjoys reading (she always has a book tucked into her purse or pocket) seek & find puzzle books, games, and crocheting;

**WHEREAS**, one of Wanda's greatest joys is her 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; they love spending time with her and she with them; you can often find her, front and center, at baseball and softball games, wrestling meets, football games, gymnastic competitions, and dance recitals; and

**WHEREAS**, Wanda is also well known for her volunteerism which touches the lives of so many people; her commitment to veterans and the military can be shown in her membership to American Legion Post # 868 for over 50 years where she was also a past president; two of her sons also served in the United States Navy;

**WHEREAS**, Wanda has also volunteered at the Southwest Veterans Center each and every week for over ten years; there she is known as the "Ice Cream Lady" because of her volunteerism at the weekly ice cream social; she has gone above and beyond that which is expected of volunteers which is just one of the reasons that she has been named the 2014 Volunteer of the Year of the Southwestern Veterans Center;

**WHEREAS**, all those who have met Wanda are fortunate for the opportunity to have met a woman with so many interests and amazing stories: she has had her driver's license since 1938, she raised chickens in the 1950s, she has watched Lawrence Welk since the day his show first began, she is a really good cook and baker; she has canned vegetables from her own garden throughout her lifetime, and she has celebrated 95 years with us giving of her time, energies and love; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate Ms. Wanda Spiering on being honored as the Volunteer of the Year and wish her all the best in the years to come! Allegheny County is truly proud to have such an extraordinary woman as a resident of our region.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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