

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Operation Valor Arts and Congressman Tim Murphy are hosting “A Veteran Tribute: Reception and Auction” on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at PNC Park’s Hall of Fame Club; the reception will honor Sergeant Thomas Edward Vandling, Jr. as well as support the many veterans living in Western Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Vandling was born on April 27, 1980 in Pittsburgh; he was a trained psychological operations specialist assigned to the 303<sup>rd</sup> Psychological Operations Company in Oakdale; he began his Army Reserve career on August 10, 2001 and completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Vandling went on to receive his Advanced Individual Training at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina; while assigned to the 303<sup>rd</sup>, he mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2003; he was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California, where he received the Guadalcanal patch; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Vandling double majored in psychology and philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh; in 2006, he returned to military life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; he was promoted to Sergeant and entered the prestigious non-commissioned officer corps during the summer of 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 2007, Sergeant Vandling died from injuries sustained when an Improvised Explosive Device near Babil Province, Iraq, struck his vehicle; we are eternally grateful for Sergeant Vandling’s courage and selfless spirit to serve our country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby posthumously commend and thank Sergeant Vandling for his bravery and sacrifice for our country; his dedication and service will not be forgotten.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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