



RESOLUTION NO. R-72-23
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING
A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP
WITH TORBOLE, ITALY



WHEREAS, William O. Darby was born on the 8th of February 1911 in Fort Smith, Arkansas;

WHEREAS, William O. Darby joined the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas; Cloudcroft, New Mexico; and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in the 1930's;

WHEREAS, on the 9th of September, 1940, William O. Darby was promoted to Captain and served with the 80th Division at Camp Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Benning, Georgia; Camp Beauregard, Louisiana; and Fort Des Moines, Iowa;

WHEREAS, Captain Darby was promoted rapidly to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was one of the first United States troops sent to Northern Ireland at the outbreak of World War II where he became interested in and studied with British Commandos;

WHEREAS, when the United States Army established the Army Rangers, Lieutenant Colonel Darby was assigned to direct the organization and training;

WHEREAS, "Darby's Rangers" trained with their British counterparts and saw action in Arzew, Algeria and Sicily. Lieutenant Colonel Darby, who was always at the head of his troops, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in 1943;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Darby was awarded the Silver Star in 1943 for his reconnoitering of the enemy's position and planning the successful attack on the enemy's position without regard for his personal safety;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Darby was promoted to Colonel and returned to Washington D.C. to work in the War Department in 1944;

WHEREAS, in March 1945, Colonel Darby returned to Italy for an observation tour with General of the Army "Hap" Arnold and subsequently took over the position of Assistant Division Commander for the United States 10th Mountain Division on the 23rd of April, 1945;

WHEREAS, "Task Force Darby" spearheaded the breakout of the 5th Army from the Po River valley bridgehead and reached Torbole at the head of Lake Garda;

WHEREAS while issuing order for the attack on Trento to cut off a German retreat, Colonel Darby was killed on the 30th of April 1945 on the Torbole waterfront when an 88 mm shell burst in the middle of the assembled officers;

WHEREAS, Colonel Darby was posthumously promoted to General, effective on the date of his death; the 30th of April, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Torbole and Fort Smith share in the life of General Darby along with the desire to honor his memory, his leadership, and the ideals for which he believed;

THEREFOR, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS, THAT:

The City of Fort Smith, Arkansas is hereby proclaimed to be a Sister City of Torbole, Italy, in memory of the events of 1945, the death of General William O. Darby, and the subsequent liberation of Italy. The City of Fort Smith is most pleased to extend its sincere best wishes for a lasting friendship and the mutual interchange of ideas and cultures. Furthermore, the citizens of Fort Smith have a great friendship, devotion, respect, and admiration for the people of Torbole, Italy.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18th DAY OF April, 2023.

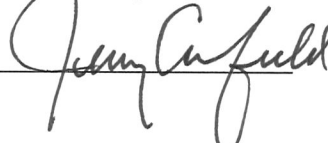
APPROVED:


VICE-MAYOR Jeffrey Rego

ATTEST:


Sherril Gard
CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:


Jeffrey Rego

