

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2021

RECOGNIZING and honoring Lieutenant John R. Fox for his extraordinary bravery and heroism in the sacrifice of his own life in service to the United States of America during World War II.

WHEREAS, Lt. Fox was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 18, 1915 and raised in the Greater Cincinnati area; and

WHEREAS, he participated in ROTC at Wilberforce University, graduated with a degree in engineering, and in 1941 received a commission as a United States Army second lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Lt. Fox served in the 92nd Infantry Division, a segregated African American division known as the “Buffalo Soldiers”; and

WHEREAS, on December 26, 1944, Lt. Fox was part of a forward observation party who volunteered to stay behind in Sommocolonia, Italy, to direct defensive fire after it had been overrun by the German army; from his position, Lt. Fox called in defensive artillery fire on the occupying German forces, radioing American artillery to bring its fire closer to his location, eventually ordering them to fire directly on his position; and

WHEREAS, knowing Lt. Fox had little chance to survive the bombardment, his order shocked the soldier who received the message; nevertheless, Lt. Fox ordered “Fire it, there’s more of them than there are of us. Give them hell!”; and

WHEREAS, the resulting barrage killed Lt. Fox and approximately 100 German soldiers surrounding his position, and his sacrifice gained time for American forces to organize a counterattack and recapture the village by January 1, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Fox was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on April 15, 1982 and the Medal of Honor on January 13, 1997; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council of the City of Cincinnati hereby recognize Lt. John R. Fox for his extraordinary bravery and heroism in the sacrifice of his own life in service to the United States of America during World War II.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: _____, 2021

John Cranley, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Councilmember Goodin