

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1964 Albert S. Ellis, an Army Veteran, affectionately known as "Al", and his beloved wife, Fran, chose Watchung as the place to raise their family and marked the beginning of their history of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Al began to devote his time to this community early on as a member of the Valley Players, Watchung Art Center Board member, and a founding member of the Optimist Club; and

WHEREAS, appointed in 1987 to fill an unexpired term, Al went on to successfully win five more terms to serve as Councilman and in 2003 the residents of Watchung elected to have Al represent the Borough in the capacity of Mayor, which he held for two consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, appointed to the Planning Board in 2001, Al served as a Class III Member until he became Mayor, then served as a Class I Member, and finally as a Class IV Member until the end of 2023; and

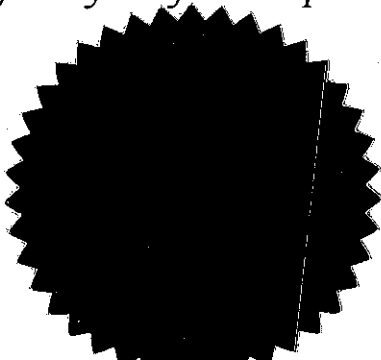
WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, there was no question in anyone's mind that Al was always a "hands on" Mayor, selflessly devoting his time to the good and well-being of all the Borough's organizations, groups, committees, and commissions on top of organizing blood drives for Wilson Memorial that still continue to this day; and

WHEREAS, whether it was the Municipal Alliance Run and Family Walk or Opening Day Ceremonies for the Little League, whether it was helping to raise funds on Super Sunday for the Jewish Federation, or whether it was organizing Pancake Breakfasts, Newcomer Picnics, or even spending a Saturday morning in the County Lock-up soliciting bail on behalf of the Red Cross; whether it was the annual Triathlon or the Mayor's Regatta at Watchung Lake, Mayor Ellis still found time to read to the children during 'Read Across America Day', provide a civic lesson to Scouts, or speak to students at Bayberry School about "What A Mayor Does"; and

WHEREAS, all of this is in addition to serving as a Commissioner to PARSA, JIF Commissioner, COAH Board Member, Executive Board Member and President and Secretary of the Somerset County Governing Officials, graduate of the Somerset County Leadership program, and liaison to the League of Municipalities Legislation Committee; and

WHEREAS, it is only appropriate to honor a man of great distinction and integrity, a man who spent many decades of his life devoted to his community and the betterment of Watchung, the same man who was inducted into the "Elected Officials Hall of Fame."

NOW, THEREFORE I, Ronald Jubin, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, with the support of the Council, do hereby proclaim May 30th as "Al Ellis Day" and call on the residents of Watchung to commend and celebrate Albert S. Ellis for his years of leadership and commitment to this community.



Ronald Jubin, Ph.D., Mayor
May 16 2024