

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

**COMMENDATION**

- Whereas:** James H. Keeffe Jr. was a fighter pilot, flying combat missions against the Germans in World War II, where he bailed out of his damaged aircraft over Holland, evaded capture for five months with the help of Dutch Resistance, and was liberated from a prisoner of war camp by elements of the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division under General George Patton; and
- Whereas:** He subsequently commanded several combat weather detachments in the Korean War and throughout the Cold War, logging more than 6,000 hours military flying time, and earning many awards, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Air Medal; and
- Whereas:** Mr. Keeffe lived in Bellevue for many years after retiring from the Air Force in 1966 as a Lieutenant Colonel; and
- Whereas:** He kept his feet on the ground, raising a family in Bellevue and working for the Boeing Company after leaving the Air Force, but still flew at every opportunity, in a variety of aircraft, from ultralights to fighter jets to balloons; and
- Whereas:** Mr. Keeffe gave to his community, serving on the Bellevue City Council for one term, from 1984 to 1987, and on the East Bellevue Community Council for four terms, from 1990 to 2006; and
- Whereas:** Mr. Keeffe was recognized for “asking the hard questions”, which promoted lively debate and healthy discussion.

*Now, therefore, I, Claudia Balducci, and on behalf of the Bellevue City Council, do, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, in the year 2015, hereby commend:*

***JAMES H. KEEFFE JR.***

for his long, decorated service to our country and to our community. His service provides an example for others to emulate and demonstrates the difference that one individual can make.

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Claudia Balducci  
Mayor