

# Proclamation

## Office of the Mayor

City of Farmers Branch,

Texas

**WHEREAS**, the 485<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group was formed in Fairmont, Nebraska in September of 1943 and underwent training in the B-24 heavy bomber before receiving orders to go overseas; and

**WHEREAS**, in less than one year of operations, from May of 1944 (with a mission to Yugoslavia) to April of 1945 (mission to Austria), the group flew 187 missions (an average of one every day and a half) to Germany and other countries in occupied Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Group lost many men in World War II, including 154 during an aerial attack on their convoy, three of their four group commanders were killed in combat, 260 more became prisoners of war after being shot down and an estimated 1,000 Purple Hearts were bestowed on the men of the 485<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the 485<sup>th</sup> is also known for integration, having spent time in Italy with the Red Tails, the famed Tuskegee Airmen of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group, setting the stage for a more socially progressive military in the years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, it took 50 combat missions in Europe to complete one tour, the surviving members of the 485<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group believe their 50<sup>th</sup> annual reunion is a fitting time to hold their final gathering.

***Now**, therefore I, Bob Phelps, by authority vested in me and on behalf of our City Council do hereby offer the warmest welcome and deepest thanks of grateful Americans to the*

## ***485<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association***

*upon the occasion of their final reunion, being held in Farmers Branch, September 17-21, 2014.*

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**Bob Phelps**  
Mayor