RESOLUTION NO. 2016-

RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICES BEING MADE BY THEM, AND ALSO BY THEIR FAMILIES, AND PROCLAIMING THE COMMENCEMENT OF "OPERATION: THANK YOU" WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, AND AUTHORIZING FREE BEACH ADMISSION DURING THE 2016 BEACH SEASON TO ALL ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS PURSUANT TO BELMAR BOROUGH ORDINANCE SECTION 18-2.5(i)

WHEREAS, members of the armed forces of the United States, including residents of the Borough of Belmar, are today actively engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, or are deployed or otherwise serving in support of those operations, and/or in support of the on-going efforts of our Armed Forces throughout the world to protect and defend our nation and its citizens;

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, and increasingly since the commencement of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the men and women of the New Jersey National Guard have been called up to active duty status in increasing numbers, and their support and service has been and will continue to be essential to the overall success of military efforts both home and abroad

WHEREAS, the ongoing hostilities in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the call to active service of thousands of New Jersey's National Guard Reservists, have added untold additional stress and sacrifice to the lives of thousands of families of our active duty military, and for whom in peacetime day-to-day life was already stressful and challenging enough;

WHEREAS, as of this morning many American families have lost loved ones in the military actions underway in Afghanistan and Iraq, and more than a hundred thousand other American families live each day in constant trepidation that the next knock on the door might make their own worst fears come true;

WHEREAS, it is important that the enormity of the day-to-day sacrifices and heroism of our troops and their families not be lost or forgotten amidst the media's unwavering focus on the sensational;

WHEREAS, the residents of the Borough of Belmar want our troops and their families to know that they are in hearts on our minds, that we support them and are extremely grateful for the sacrifices they are making each and every day;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are authorized pursuant to Belmar General Ordinance 18-2.5(h) to provide free admission to the beaches for participants in "special beach events, programs or promotions"; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council, on behalf of all the families of Belmar, wish to honor and recognize our active military personnel and their families by establishing a special program for the Summer of 2016;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Belmar that in honor and recognition of our active military personnel and their families, and to

demonstrate the gratitude of the residents of the Borough of Belmar for the daily sacrifices they are making, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Belmar hereby announce the commencement of "**OPERATION: THANK YOU";** and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that banners donated by Belmar families and proclaiming Belmar's support for our troops and their families will be hung at each of the 20 blocks along Belmar's beautiful beaches;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to and in accordance with Section 18-2.5(i) of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Belmar*, that free beach admission be provided during the 2016 Season to each member of the active military, including but not limited to the NJ National Guard, Coast Guard and all United States Armed Forces branches* and their dependents upon the presentation of a valid military identification card at any beach gate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Belmar's business community be invited and encouraged to participate in "Operation: Thank You" by providing discounts to our active military and their dependents, and by otherwise recognizing their sacrifices and service and joining the residents of Belmar in welcoming them to our community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that New Jersey's other coastal communities be and hereby are invited to join with Belmar in providing free beach admission to members of our active military and their dependents and/or in otherwise demonstrating their support for our troops and their families, and the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the governing bodies of New Jersey's other Coastal communities, to cause a copy of the Resolution to the Borough's website at www.belmar.com, and to forward a copy of the Resolution to the New Jersey League of Municipalities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect throughout the 2016 beach season;

offered the above resolution and moved its adoption.

Seconded by and adopted by the following vote:

Councilmembers:	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Keown-Blackburn				
Mr. Magovern				
Mr. Brennan				
Mrs. Nicolay				
Mayor Doherty				

Adopted: