

**PROCLAMATION BY THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HONORING
CHARLES “CHIC” J. RICHARDSON**

WHEREAS, Charles “Chic” J. Richardson, born on June 7, 1923, answered the call of duty during one of the most pivotal conflicts in history, serving with distinction and courage in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson served in the European Theater of Operations as a radioman and gunner on a B-17G with the 8th Air Force, 390th Bomb Group (Heavy), 571st Squadron, stationed in Framlingham, England. He took part in numerous high-risk missions that played a crucial role in the Allied efforts to secure victory. Through his commitment and bravery, he contributed to the liberation of Europe and the eventual Allied victory; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson’s outstanding military service was marked by acts of extraordinary valor. His awards and commendations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four Oak-Leaf Clusters, two Presidential Unit Citations, Russian Medal of Victory, French Jubilee of Liberty Medal, and the French Legion of Honor Medal, reflect his heroic efforts and commitment to duty. These accolades are not only symbols of his bravery but also of the profound respect and gratitude of the nations he helped to liberate; and

WHEREAS, among his many achievements, Mr. Richardson was awarded a Certificate in Recognition of his service and contributions to liberating France and for his participation in the Invasion of Normandy, signed by the French Secretary of Defense. These honors speak to his deep sacrifice and steadfastness, enduring experiences of terror and hardship that forever marked his life and that of those who served beside him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson’s journey in the military included returning to the locations he once served in Europe, witnessing the transformation of places he helped liberate over eighty years prior, reflecting the lasting impact of his sacrifices and the enduring bonds of peace fostered through his service; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Mr. Richardson continued to honor his fellow service members and the memory of those who served by actively participating in the 390th Bomb Group Historical Society Chapter in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he shared his experiences with future generations, ensuring that the lessons of courage, sacrifice, and resilience are never to be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richardson’s life and service embodied the highest ideals of loyalty, courage, and patriotism, serving as an example of the dedication and strength of our nation’s servicemen and women. His story, his valor, and his lifelong commitment to preserving the legacy of his fellow veterans are a testament to the profound impact that one individual can have on history and on the lives of countless others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Union County Board of Commissioners here by proclaim heartfelt recognition and commendation for Charles “Chic” J. Richardson. His courage, heroism, and dedication to his country and comrades continue to inspire and remind us of all of the sacrifices made in defense of freedom. It is with great respect and admiration that we honor and recognize Mr. Richardson today as a true American hero.

Adopted the 17th day of November 2025.

ATTEST:

Lynn G. West, Clerk to the Board

Melissa Merrell, Chair
Union County Board of Commissioners