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SOUTH BRUNSWICK HONORS WWII HERO JOHN W. FARNKOPF WITH VETERAN STREET DEDICATION

SOUTH BRUNSWICK, NJ (NOVEMBER 10). The Township of South Brunswick honored **World War II Army Air Forces Lieutenant John W. Farnkopf** on **Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, with a **Veteran Street Dedication Ceremony** at the corner of **Major Road and Northumberland Way**, near the home where he once lived.

The ceremony brought together **community members, local veterans, and Township leaders** to celebrate Lt. Farnkopf's remarkable life and enduring legacy of service. Representing the Township were **Mayor Charlie Carley, Deputy Mayor Ken Bierman, Councilwoman Jo Hochman, Councilwoman Archana "Ann" Grover, Councilwoman Patty Germain, and Township Manager Bryan Bidlack.**

As part of the Township's **Veteran Street Sign Program**, a secondary street sign bearing Lt. Farnkopf's name was unveiled to honor his service and sacrifice in defense of our nation.

Born in **1923** and raised in the **Monmouth Junction** section of South Brunswick, John W. Farnkopf graduated from Dayton Grammar School and Middlesex County Vocational School before working as an electrician in Milltown. He enlisted in the **U.S. Army** in **1943**, joining the **Army Air Forces** and later flying the **P-51D Mustang "Jo-Baby"** as part of the **15th U.S. Army Air Forces, 52nd Fighter Group, 4th Fighter Squadron.**

Lt. Farnkopf flew bomber escort and fighter missions across Europe during World War II, earning the **Air Medal** and **Purple Heart** for his courage and commitment. On **November 11, 1944**, while returning from a mission over Czechoslovakia, his aircraft was struck by enemy fire near Austria. He was declared **Missing in Action**, and in 1953, his remains were located and returned home for burial in the **Dayton Cemetery** with full military honors.

In his memory, the Farnkopf family donated their property on Major Road to establish **American Legion Post 401**, which continues to bear his name and honor his legacy today.

"Lieutenant Farnkopf gave his future so that we might have ours," said Mayor Charlie Carley. "He moved us toward a better today by fighting to defeat fascism so that the world his family and neighbors lived in would be one of freedom, not fear. His legacy endures not just in memory, but in the living heart of our community. The American Legion Post 401, built on land donated by his family, proudly bears his name and reminds us that this town — our town — produces heroes."

The Township's **Veteran Street Sign Program** recognizes local wartime veterans by adding their names to secondary street signs on existing municipal roads — a lasting tribute to those who served and sacrificed for our country.

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