Proclamation

WHEREAS, Defender of the Year is a new recognition of frontline workers who have continued to bravely serve the public in these uncertain times created by Vector Security in partnership with the Pittsburgh Penguins; the 2020 Defender of the Year honor is being bestowed upon a western Pennsylvania frontline worker who has continued to bravely serve the public in these uncertain times; Melissa Nadeau, a nurse in the COVID unit of the VA Hospital, is this year’s honoree and is being surprised at a virtual announcement on December 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Melissa has spent 18 years of her career as a nurse in Pittsburgh and dedicated the last two years in her dream role at the VA Hospital Intensive Care Unit, helping to ensure our veterans receive the critical care they deserve; she selflessly volunteered to put herself on the frontline to treat veterans in the hospital’s COVID unit when the pandemic began earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated and loving wife, Melissa was nominated for this inaugural award by her husband Ken who has witnessed her selflessness over the years; in the nomination, he said this: “Running towards danger, Melissa is inspired by the very heroes she takes care of;” and

WHEREAS, a proud mom of a son and daughter, Melissa is also an avid fan of her hometown hockey team, the Pittsburgh Penguins, and is just as passionate about her son’s youth hockey team and her daughter’s softball team; and

WHEREAS, Melissa represents one of the core values that make Allegheny County uniquely special, bravely stepping up to help when there is a need; she is a true example of the frontline workers dedicated to ensuring our residents and communities receive the services and care they need and we are fortunate to have her.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim December 11, 2020 as “Melissa Nadeau, Defender of the Year Day” in Allegheny County and congratulate her on this very deserving honor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have herewith set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 11th day of December, 2020.

Rich Fitzgerald

County Executive

Rich Fitzgerald