



# Proclamation

Office of the Mayor  
Municipality of Princeton

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of the town of Princeton in 1724 resulted in prioritizing both the protection of life and property, a small group of townsfolk, University professors, and students started a volunteer Princeton Fire Department in 1788, and

**WHEREAS**, with all volunteer organizations it takes a special breed of person to make a commitment to serve their community, and

**WHEREAS**, William D. Shields was born in Princeton, 1949, son of William E. and Cassie Shields, and

**WHEREAS**, William grew up on Charlton and Chestnut Streets and was influenced by family and friends to give back to the community, starting his service at the age of 16 when he joined the PFARS Cadet Corp, followed by joining the PFD at age 21, and

**WHEREAS**, William, in joining the PFD, became members with his father William E., Uncle Abe, then followed by brother Henry and son Patrick, and

**WHEREAS**, William, during his 55 years of service in Princeton Engine Co. #1, has held the ranks of Chief of PFD, Captain of Princeton Fire Police, and President of Engine Co. #1, and

**WHEREAS**, William has received numerous awards and commendations to include a citation for saving a victim from the John Street dwelling fire in the 1970's, and

**WHEREAS**, William continues to give back to the people of Princeton, particularly in serving as the chairperson of the Princeton September 11, 2001 Memorial Committee, coordinating the annual memorial ceremonies,

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Mark Freda, by the virtue and authority vested in me as Mayor of the Municipality of Princeton, on behalf of the entire governing body do hereby deem it an honor to extend a heartfelt thank you to William D. Shields and his family on behalf of the Princeton community.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL  
THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2026



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MARK FREDA  
Mayor