

DR. JEFFERSON VAN DREW
2ND DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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June 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of a bronze sculpture of Bernard I. Friedenberg, which will be created by Fisher Sculpture, to be placed in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Bernard I. Friedenberg served as a member of the Medical Detachment, 1st Battalion, 16th Regimenta, and 1st Infantry Division during most of his Army service. It was his duty to remove (or supervise removal of) wounded soldiers from the front lines to nearby aid stations, where he would tend to their wounds.

Staff Sergeant Friedenberg was an Atlantic City native, who was deployed in many of the major battles of the War: Operation Torch in Algeria during 1942; as a member of the "Fighting First" in the campaign for Sicily in August 1943; Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944; and through the fields and hedgerows of France into Aachen, Germany, in the fall of 1944. Bernard was also involved in the infamous Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. He was in Czechoslovakia at the end of the War and thereafter was assigned to occupation duty in Germany. Bernard returned to the United States in the fall of 1945.

Bernard Friedenberg was a highly decorated soldier. He received his first Silver Star for making five trips under heavy enemy fire to recover the wounded from a mine field on Omaha Beach. He was awarded a second Silver Star for action in Munsterbusch, Germany. He was twice awarded the Bronze Star for valor and was also the recipient of two Purple Hearts.

After the war, Bernard married and raised a family in Margate, New Jersey. Up until his death in 2018, he regularly spoke to middle and high school students about his World War II experiences. He also authored the book "Of Being Numerous: World War II as I Saw It." Bernard's heroics have been recognized on several occasions. He was recognized by former NJ Governor Jon Corzine in 2009 and was honored at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, in 2016.

I believe that the most likely location for this statue would be in Atlantic City, given Bernard's Atlantic City roots, the vital role Atlantic City played during World War II, and Atlantic City's reemergence as a preeminent tourist destination in New Jersey.

I thank you for the consideration you can give to allowing this bronze statue of Bernard I. Friedenberg to be placed in Atlantic City. Please do not hesitate to contact me should I be of any assistance to you. I hope you have a happy and healthy spring season.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Van Drew".

Jeff Van Drew
United States Congressman NJ2