

## **Posthumous Congressional Medal requested for World War II hero (<http://www.register-herald.com/local/x1386016792/Posthumous-Congressional-Medal-requested-for-World-War-II-hero>)**

**By Tina Alvey**  
**Register-Herald Reporter (<http://www.register-herald.com>)**

RONCEVERTE — A Greenbrier County delegate and U.S. senator have joined forces with local officials to request the posthumous award of a Congressional Medal of Honor to a World War II hero.

Ronceverte native Thomas E. “Jock” Clifford Jr. was killed in action in the Philippines June 24, 1945.

With the 100th anniversary of his birth coming up on May 19, a push is on to obtain this long-overdue recognition of Clifford’s heroism, according to Doug Hylton, who runs the city’s development office and Main Street program.

Hylton said he was approached by both Delegate Tom Campbell and Senator Joe Manchin and asked to compile the supporting data for the Congressional Medal application.

“Usually, this takes a two-year period,” Hylton said, explaining the process of obtaining the medal posthumously.

The group working on the Clifford nomination is asking for a waiver of that time frame in hopes of gaining approval on or around May 19, he added.

In requesting support, in the form of a resolution, from the Ronceverte City Council Tuesday evening, Hylton read from a letter Clifford’s widow received from her husband’s commanding officer, eulogizing Clifford as a “brilliant and courageous soldier.”

Council approved declaring May 19 “Thomas E. ‘Jock’ Clifford Jr. Day” in the River City.

Both a community center and a bridge in his hometown bear Clifford’s name.

-----

City officials responded to inquiries about an ongoing litter problem by telling Ronceverte Women’s Club members that more than 60 citations have been written in recent weeks for everything from littering to parking junked cars in yards.

Councilman David Smith explained an alleged violator is given five days to respond to the citation and then has another 30 days in which to clean up the property in question.

"We're trying," said Mayor Gail White.

City administrator Pamela Stevens said she is also drafting a letter that will be sent to downtown business owners, reminding them of Ronceverte's trash ordinance.

Also:

- A representative from the West Virginia University Design Team has agreed to look at the traffic problem on Pocahontas Avenue and try to help the city come up with a solution.
- Council approved the second of three readings of an ordinance allowing the city to float a loan not to exceed \$1.65 million for design and other pre-construction work on a new wastewater treatment plant.
- Early voting in Ronceverte's municipal election will be conducted from May 25 through June 4. Election day is June 7.

— E-mail: [talvey@register-herald.com](mailto:talvey@register-herald.com)



**SPEND \$75 GET 20% OFF** on the latest looks for women.

Shop [Target.com](http://Target.com) >

---

The Register-Herald, Beckley, West Virginia 801 N. Kanawha St., P.O. Box 2398, Beckley, WV, 25802