OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOWN OF WALLINGFORD
CONNECTICUT

Vincent Cervoni
Mayor

45 South Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Kenneth Polanski was born on February 25, 1947; and

Whereas, as a young man he worked at Wallace Silversmith learning to create various silver pieces; and

Whereas, he attended Wilcox Technical High school to learn the machine trade. His decision to sign up for Vietnam caused him to lose his senior year at Wilcox; and

Whereas, Mr. Polanski served two tours in the Navy, 1966-1968 in Vietnam and 1968-1970 in Europe. He was honorably discharged as an E5 Second Class Petty Officer; and

Whereas, upon his return home, he engaged himself in the study of various vocations. He attended the Paier School of Art for three years, becoming a graphic artist photo journalist and fine arts student. He taught himself typesetting before transferring to the Rochester Institute of Technology where he learned to refine his craft. The art of engraving and pottery making also became a part of his extensive repertoire; and

Whereas, In 1984 Polanski was given the honor to design, create and produce a piece of art depicting the end of the Vietnam War. He designed and created a monument made of black granite, with 686 names of the fallen soldiers hand carved into the granite. The angle of the granite gives a sense of separation based on the last helicopter evacuation in Saigon. That last day, was in part the final day for the South Vietnamese and American wounded as well as the last stand of the remaining American soldiers; and

Whereas, we commend Mr. Polanski for giving this piece life. He has reminded this town of the bravery, courage and freedom that our sons fought and died for in Vietnam; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vincent Cervoni, Mayor, on behalf of the Town of Wallingford, declare September 6, 2024 as:

Kenneth Polanski Day

in our community and urge our citizens to visit Dutton Park to appreciate the monument and give thanks to those that served in the Vietnam War.

DATED THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024
Wallingford, Connecticut

Vincent Cervoni
Mayor