

Veterans' Honor Marred

Veterans and veteran organizations needed to voice opposition to the degradation of the memory of war veterans

November 9, 2020

Contacts:

Fred Stine, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, C 856.816.8021

Theresa Bender, Citizens For Sustainable Development, C 908.528.7621

Julia Somers, NJ Highlands Coalition, C 973.525.2768

White Township, NJ – The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Citizens for Sustainable Development, and the New Jersey Highlands Coalition are urging veterans to oppose the proposed Jandl warehouse plan in White Township, NJ.

U.S. War Veterans were honored in late 1997 by the American Legion of Warren County and the Warren County Freeholders when they passed Resolution 638-97, which declared Route 519 “War Veterans Memorial Highway.” The Resolution states that the American Legion and Warren County “wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to all veterans of all wars.”

“It is no surprise why Route 519 was made a symbol of such a high honor. Route 519 is a beautiful two-lane country road winding through the New Jersey Highlands and small Central Jersey villages, like Harmony, with schools and school bus stops, churches and historic homes along the way,” **said Julia Somers, Executive Director, NJ Highlands Coalition.**

In 2019, *NJ.com* selected Route 519 as one of New Jersey's 20 most scenic roads, writing, “No other Jersey road packs as much scenery as Route 519. It's a road made for motorcycles and stick shifts. It's 70 miles of one of the most scenic drives.”

“Among the ways to honor veterans is to show respect for the memorials that honor their dedication and sacrifice, as well as to protect the communities and environments they cherish, including White Township and the Delaware River,” **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**



Photo credit: Linda VanSeters, Citizens For Sustainable Development

“Today, that honor is being threatened by industrial warehouses,” said **Theresa Bender, Citizens For Sustainable Development**. “The Jaindl Land Company is proposing to construct 3 million square feet of warehouse on Route 519 and Foul Rift Road. This development alone will add as many as 850 more trucks during per peak hours plus added automobile congestion. Route 519 will need to be widened and multiple traffic lights added to handle this new truck traffic.”



Warren County’s recently released county traffic study predicts that, with full build-out of the Jaindl industrial warehouse and other zoned development, Route 519 would have to be widened to two lanes in each direction from Route 46 in White Township to the Route 646 split in Harmony Township with turning lanes added to many intersections.

“We all recognize the important role that warehouses play in the modern supply chain, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic,” said **Fred Stine, himself a veteran and Citizen Action Coordinator for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network**. “But we don’t have to accept those warehouses being built in places and ways that are harmful to our communities, environment, and prime agricultural farmlands; there are a myriad of other options such as re-using industrial and shopping spaces that have been or are being abandoned. The Jaindl industrial warehouses are 10-miles from the near interstate highway. Jaindl knows full-well that his project will force the widening of the War Veterans Memorial Highway from its current 2-lane scenic road through farm country to a 4-6 lane throughway complete with congestion, tractor trailers and new traffic lights. Certainly not anything close to the tribute and honor the VFW or the Freeholders intended. The only thing that widening Rt. 519 honors, along with the 30-year tax break that he has applied for, will be Jaindl’s pocketbook.”

Veterans from throughout Warren County, the region, state and country are being urged to stand-up and speak-out and help preserve the tribute to war veterans by:

- ✓ **Write the Warren County Freeholders** urging them to deny any county approvals Jaindl will require – and Jaindl will require multiple county approvals: Jason [Sarnoski \(jsarnoski@co.warren.nj.us\)](mailto:jsarnoski@co.warren.nj.us), James Kern (JKern@co.warren.nj.us), and Richard Gardner (kdsfarm@yahoo.com);
- ✓ **Ask your town’s** elected leaders to draft a Municipal Resolution against the Jaindl warehouses;
- ✓ Attend White Township Planning Board ZOOM meetings. Goto: <https://white-township.com/detail.php?ID=139>;
- ✓ **Stay informed.** Follow Citizens For Sustainable Development Face Book page;
- ✓ **Make a donation** to www.savewarrencounty.org to help fund our legal and our team of technical experts.

###