



Proclamation

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF COMAL §
CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS §

WHEREAS, Fred Fey, Jimmy Owens, and Mitch Sacco have been named Living Legends of New Braunfels by the Braunfels Foundation Trust; and

WHEREAS, Fred Fey can trace his ancestors back to the original group of settlers who, with Prince Carl, established our beautiful city in 1845. Fred's life of service began with earning the rank of Eagle Scout at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School. After high school, he attended seminary before enrolling at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, earning a bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts and a master's degree in Education. After teaching middle school drafting, Fred worked on designing airplanes, air conditioners for Volkswagens, and steel forms for concrete, and then at Zoeller Funeral Home serving families experiencing great loss. Fred's volunteer resume stands as a shining example, having served not only his church but our community through the ministries he initiated as a deacon at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church over the past forty years. Fred served as Jaycee president in 1976 and was later honored as Jaycee of the Year. The Jaycees sponsored the Texas Junior Miss Program and Fred as chairman of the Scholarship Committee acted as a host family for contestants. When daughters Carolyn and Sandra were in school Fred served as "Room Dad," even bringing his famous Wurlitzer organ to a Seele PTA Carnival. He served as President of the American Heart Association, helped design and build several of the displays at the Civic Center for the annual Heritage Exhibit held during Wurstfest, was a New Braunfels High School Band Booster, supported the PTA, Aggie Moms, Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture, and the Sophienburg Museum and Archives where he still helps merchants arriving for Weihnachtsmarkt. In 1980, Fred was ordained a Catholic Permanent Deacon serving his hometown parish, a labor of love. Fred initiated four different ministries at Saints Peter and Paul: the Bereavement Ministry, the Welcome Ministry, the Sick and Homebound Ministry and a grief ministry, God's Healing Love. These activities are in addition to the masses, baptisms, funerals, confirmations, and children's activities in which Fred is involved. Fred shares his love of music with New Braunfels via a 1900s Wurlitzer Military Band Organ, a Tangley Calliope mounted on a Model T, and a hand-crank Raffin street organ handmade in Germany. These instruments have been in the Comal County Fair, Fourth of July, and Kindermaskenball parades, as well as child-care centers, nursing homes, community events, Wassailfests, and in Roselyn and Fred's front yard at Christmas. The New Braunfels Herald Zeitung honored Fred with their Unsung Hero award in 2014.

WHEREAS, Jimmy Owens graduated from New Braunfels High School in 1973. After graduation, Jimmy married the ever-patient Beth Wissing, started a family, and joined the family business established by his mother and father. With his family Jimmy has built a successful and well-respected local construction company, D&M Owens, Inc. The success and resources of the company has no doubt contributed to Jimmy's ability to assist those in need, but his character is responsible for the rest. New Braunfels has seen devastating floods, and Jimmy has always been there to help. In the 1972 flood, while a junior in high school, he rescued people from roof tops in a dump truck. During the 1998 flood, Jimmy pulled a trailer through floodwaters for people to climb onto in the Las Brisas neighborhood. After practically every flood, Jimmy has worked to remove debris from homes and public lands in our community and in others as well. He took transformers to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, volunteered with clean-up efforts after the hurricane in Port Arthur, and volunteered with First Baptist Church's chainsaw ministry. Wine and Sangerfest, Wassailfest, and the Soul-Searching cemetery tours have all benefited from Jimmy's assistance with set-up and clean-up efforts. He has delivered playhouses for Hope Hospice, was instrumental in building the Christian Academy high school and Tree of Life Church, and he volunteers every year at the historic Comal County Fair and Rodeo. Jimmy is also a fixture in the Upwards Bounds basketball programs, coaching for fifteen years, and the New Braunfels Little League,

coaching baseball and softball for over thirty years, not to mention the innumerable other jobs performed at the ballfield as a Little League volunteer. He has coached his kids and his grandkids, and has worked with kids without parents, traveling to orphanages in Mexico for building projects and playing soccer with the children. James A. Owens is a humble man with a servant's heart and the New Braunfels Herald Zeitung named him an Unsung Hero in 2013. He shares the 2018 New Braunfels Parks and Recreation Service Award with his brother, John, for always being there to help with projects as wild as removing an RV from the Comal River to assisting with renovations at the putt-putt golf course. Jimmy is the father of eleven children and grandfather of twenty-seven who follow in his footsteps, and he is there to support their efforts -- whether it is helping daughter Jennifer with the Comal Cops for Kids fundraisers or assisting daughter Julianna in raising funds for an orphanage in Haiti. Remarkably, during many of these endeavors Jimmy was successfully battling cancer. When daughter Jasmin was recently diagnosed with cancer, Jimmy and family were there in full battle mode to defeat this dreadful disease. The Owens family believes that each job not only represents a project to be completed but also a relationship and a reputation that reaches out into the future.

WHEREAS, Mitchell James Sacco, Jr. was born in Houston in 1934 where his parents owned a family grocery store, Sacco Brothers Food Market. After graduating from St. Thomas High School and Loyola University in New Orleans, Mitch married Jean Eschenburg in 1955 and enrolled in the University of Texas Dental School in Houston. After dental school, Mitch, Jean, and their three children, Nancy, Mark, and Suzanne relocated to Camp Leroy in New Orleans, where Captain Sacco served as an Army dentist and their son Chris was born. They moved to New Braunfels in 1960, where their fifth child, daughter Michele, was born. New Braunfels gained an enthusiastic young dentist and so much more. He joined the New Braunfels Rotary Club, becoming its president at age 29 in 1964, and is credited with bringing the first District Conference to New Braunfels and becoming the first club president to attend a Rotary International Conference. In 1982, Mitch worked to charter a new Rotary Club, and after nearly forty years is still an active member of the Downtown Rotary Club of New Braunfels. He can still be found in the Rotary's Wurstfest booth cooking the beloved Wurst-n-Taschen. Mitch was active in the New Braunfels Jaycees and instrumental in establishing the New Braunfels Junior Miss program. As president of the Wurstfest Association, he worked with the Community Actors Theatre to create Circle Arts Theatre from a converted warehouse on the Wurstfest grounds. Work on the walkway to the Comal River on the Wurstfest grounds also began during Mitch's presidency. He continues to volunteer at Wurstfest, even as an Opa Emeritus. Mitch has been an active member of the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, earning his Blue Coat in 1973 and serving as Chair of the Board in 1982. He was recognized with a Chair of the Board Award in the Field of Community Beautification for his work on Hinman Island and later inducted into the Hall of Honor. Mitch has spent countless hours serving on committees studying a bond election for school improvements, planning the 125th Anniversary of the founding of New Braunfels, and shifting our city's government to its current city council, city manager system. He served on the boards of Guaranty State Bank, McKenna Memorial Hospital, and the McKenna Foundation. Mitch has gone on a humanitarian mission to Mexico to provide dental care in impoverished areas and was deputized by Sheriff Walter Fellers and went on Saturday night ride-a-longs. As life-long members of the Sophienburg Museum and Museum of Handmade Furniture, both Mitch and Jean have spent countless hours working to help preserve the history and culture of New Braunfels and were named Honorary Chairs of Folkfest in 2003. Mitchell James Sacco, Jr., the father of five children, 16 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren has passed his sense of duty and volunteerism to his children – many of whom are also involved in our community.

WHEREAS, the Braunfels Foundation Trust will honor these Living Legends at their festive event at the New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center Main Ballroom on October 19, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RUSTY BROCKMAN, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of New Braunfels, do hereby proclaim Fred Fey, Jimmy Owens, and Mitch Sacco as

LIVING LEGENDS OF NEW BRAUNFELS

and urge all citizens to join the Braunfels Foundation Trust in honoring New Braunfels' Living Legends.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of New Braunfels to be affixed this the 12th day of October 2020.

CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS

BY: _____
RUSTY BROCKMAN, Mayor