

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-57

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO
LOUIS S. ZAMPERINI
FOR SERVING AS CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHAL OF THE
49TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE AND OBSERVANCE**

WHEREAS, the City of Torrance is sponsoring its annual Armed Forces Day Observance for the 49th consecutive year beginning on May 16, with military exhibits at Del Amo Fashion Center and the parade taking place on May 17, 2008 in the City of Torrance; and

WHEREAS, each year the Armed Forces Day Celebration gives special recognition to a branch of the military service, and this year the City salutes the United States Marine Corps, whose Concert Band will perform two free concerts on May 16 at the James Armstrong Theatre; and

WHEREAS, the festivities, which have grown each year, continue to attract attention and participation from the community and the City is honored to have Louis Zamperini serve as the Celebrity Grand Marshal of the parade to further enrich this year's celebration; and

WHEREAS, Louis Zamperini is a former resident of the City of Torrance, attended Torrance High School, and is a graduate of the University of Southern California. An Olympian from the 1936 Berlin Olympics, receiving special attention from Adolf Hitler, twice the NCAA mile champion and record holder, and in 1940 joined the U.S. Air Corps where he served with distinction until his plane crashed into the South Pacific, surviving 47 days before being found and imprisoned by the Japanese Navy for two and one half years where he endured mental and physical abuse before being freed at the end of the war, returning as an American Hero; and

WHEREAS, during a spiritual conversion during a Billy Graham crusade, he returned to Japan to preach forgiveness to those who held him captive; his attitude and convictions have awarded him carrier of the Olympic torch three times, in Los Angeles, Atlanta and Nagano, the latter taking him on a route past one of the POW camps where he was imprisoned. He was honored by two Presidents, Imperial War Museum of London, received a tribute at the United States Air Force Museum, 12 L.A. Press Club Awards, 10 Golden Mike Awards, three Edward R. Murrow Awards, two local Emmy Awards, nine Emmy nominations, two Iris Awards and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism Award, and has written a book titled, "Devil At My Heels"; and

WHEREAS, his name is honorably displayed at Torrance High School's "Zamperini Stadium", at the entrance plaza of USC's track & field stadium as "Louis Zamperini Plaza", at Torrance Municipal Airport's "Zamperini Field", and he is lovingly known as the "Torrance Tornado".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council, on behalf of its members and the citizens of Torrance, California, expresses its appreciation to

LOUIS S. ZAMPERINI

who, by his presence, contributes honor and prestige to this annual patriotic event in the City of Torrance.

INTRODUCED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of May 2008.

Mayor Frank Scotto

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by _____
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

Sue Herbers, City Clerk