

# City of Philadelphia



## Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250082)

### RESOLUTION

Recognizing and Honoring Robert Faulds for His Exceptional Service to the United States Navy and to the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, Robert Faulds, a Korean War Navy veteran, lifelong Kensington resident, and retired insurance professional, at 92 years old, continues to demonstrate extraordinary dedication to his City and its people; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Faulds graduated with honors from North Catholic High School and subsequently enlisted in the United States Navy to serve in the Korean War. A rare photograph of his enlistment was published in the Bulletin; and

WHEREAS, The USS Toledo (CA-133) was home to Mr. Faulds while sailing on the East China Sea; and

WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the Korean War with the armistice signed on July 27, 1953, Mr. Faulds returned to his home. The USS Toledo (CA-133) anchored in Peral Harbor, Hawaii after combat; and

WHEREAS, Robert Faulds' siblings demonstrated commendable service to our nation. James Joseph served in World War II, Phillip William fulfilled his duties in the Navy, Joseph James contributed to the U.S. Coast Guard, and Robert Joseph also served in the Navy. Their collective dedication reflects a strong commitment to our country's defense and values; and

WHEREAS, While recovering from a stroke, Faulds embraced the internet to stay engaged and give back to his community, spending countless hours researching and uncovering unclaimed assets and potential fraud within the City of Philadelphia's property tax relief programs; and

WHEREAS, With no staff and limited resources, Mr. Faulds took it upon himself to track down Philadelphians eligible for tax relief or unclaimed assets, alerting approximately 1,500 families to funds and exemptions they were entitled to, all while personally covering the costs of postage and ink for his letters; and

# City of Philadelphia

*RESOLUTION NO. 250082 continued*

WHEREAS, In addition to assisting Philadelphia residents with their tax relief and unclaimed assets, Mr. Faulds noticed discrepancies in the City's Homestead Exemption Program, including properties with out-of-state mailing addresses, multiple claims for the exemption by the same individuals, and even businesses and landlords improperly receiving the benefit; and

WHEREAS, Rather than ignoring these discrepancies, Mr. Faulds took action by alerting the City Controller's Office, which launched a thorough investigation into the issue. This effort led to the identification of over 23,000 properties that were improperly enrolled in the program that resulted in an estimated \$11 million in lost revenue annually for the City and school district; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to Mr. Faulds' vigilance and dedication, the investigation prompted recommendations to strengthen the verification process for the Homestead Exemption, including better cross-checking of names and addresses, penalties for fraudulent claims, and increased oversight of out-of-City beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Faulds' tireless work not only exposed significant fraud within the Homestead Exemption Program but also helped safeguard millions of dollars in City and school district funds that are critical to providing vital services to Philadelphia's residents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Faulds' contributions to the City and his community reflect the highest standards of civic responsibility, public service, and selflessness, serving as a model for others to follow in their own efforts to make a difference in the lives of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors Robert Faulds for his exceptional service, unwavering dedication, and significant contributions to his country, community, and the City of Philadelphia.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Robert Faulds as evidence of the true and sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.

# City of Philadelphia

*RESOLUTION NO. 250082 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the sixth day of February, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Lozada

Sponsored by: Councilmember Lozada, Councilmembers, Phillips, Gauthier, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, O'Neil and Squilla