



Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

## Whereas:

Lt. William Metzger was born on February 9, 1922 in Lima, Ohio and he died heroically on November 9, 1944 during World War II at the age of 22; and

**WHEREAS:** Lt. Metzger was co-pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress, called "Lady Jeanette", in the 729<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron when the plane was seriously damaged by enemy fire over Saarbrucken, Germany; and

**WHEREAS:** Lt. Metzger knew the most critically injured crew members needed medical attention but was worried they would not receive it if he dropped them by parachute into enemy territory. He decided to finish the mission and fly the damaged airplane into Allied territory; and

**WHEREAS:** Lt. Metzger dropped the bombs on the targets to complete his mission and flew the damaged plane into Allied territory, where he gave his parachute to an injured crewman and had everyone parachute off of the plane except for his pilot and the radio operator. The plane exploded right before they could crash land. Lt. Metzger was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on May 16, 1945.


**WHEREAS:** In 1945 Lima City Councilman Robert Wilson said "Stone and wood and manmade monuments do not withstand the ravages of time and the persons they represent fade until their memory is obliterated like the memorial itself. This is something real and tangible. I move that the new reservoir be named 'Metzger Lake'"; and

**NOW THEREFORE:** I, David J. Berger, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio, do hereby proclaim November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as

**Lt. William Metzger Day**

in Lima, Ohio, in recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death and to remember the sacrifices he made on that fateful day in service to our nation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 9th day of November 2019.

  
DAVID J. BERGER, MAYOR  
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

