



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Walter Reuther was born in Wheeling one hundred years ago on September 1, 1907 and went on to become one of the most innovative, influential and charismatic labor leaders of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, Walter Reuther became president of the United Auto Workers in 1946 and president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the CIO, serving until his death in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Walter Reuther was prominent in national politics consulting with Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson; and

WHEREAS, Walter Reuther was an advocate and leader for civil rights speaking at the historic March on Washington in 1963. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, and was often referred to as "The White Martin Luther King;" and

WHEREAS, Walter Reuther is the only Wheeling native to be included in the Wall Street Journal's "Gallery of the Greatest" along with John D. Rockefeller, Alexander Graham Bell, and Thomas Edison. Time Magazine included Walter Reuther in its list of most influential business leaders of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, Walter Reuther is still seen as a working-class hero in the struggle for economic and social justice, living his personal philosophy that "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicholas A. Sparachane, Mayor of the City of Wheeling, do hereby proclaim the First of September each year as

"WALTER REUTHER DAY"

in the City of Wheeling in recognition of him and his extraordinary contribution to this Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Seal of the City of Wheeling, West Virginia, to be affixed this 21st day of August, 2007.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nicholas A. Sparachane".

Nicholas A. Sparachane, Mayor