

# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## IN CITY COUNCIL

November 16, 2017

**RESOLUTION HONORING SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER GLENN GOMES  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RECEIVING THE  
2017 SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**WHEREAS**, Christopher G. Gomes, a life-long resident of the City, was born in July 1985, is the oldest of four sons of Glenn Gomes and loving father to his son Blake; and

**WHEREAS**, Christopher Gomes, a proud graduate of Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, Class of 2003, enlisted in the United States Army – Active Duty in March 2003, while still in High School, training after graduation at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, until being placed at his permanent duty station in Grafenwohr, Germany, with the 535<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, 94<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion; and

**WHEREAS**, In January 2005, Private First Class Gomes was deployed for the first of two tours of active duty to Mosul, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, returning again for a second tour to Baghdad, Iraq, as a Chemical Sergeant and Squad Leader in charge of a unit of eight soldiers in October 2008, the 13<sup>th</sup> month of his second deployment, Sergeant Gomes was seriously wounded when his armored vehicle was struck by multiple explosive formed projectiles; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Gomes was transferred from the blast site to Baghdad Combat Support Hospital, where doctors were unsuccessful in saving his right leg, but were able to stabilize other critical injuries before transferring him for further medical treatment to Germany and finally to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where, because of the serious nature of his wounds, Sergeant Gomes underwent more than twelve surgeries in less than two months, Sergeant Gomes then endured hundreds of hours of grueling physical therapy and learned to walk again with the use of his prosthetic leg; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Gomes received numerous combat medals, badges, ribbons and stars, along with a Purple Heart for his courageous service in Iraq, and as a result of his combat related disability, was honorably discharged after six years and eleven months of distinguished service and retired from the United States Army on July 19, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, In October 2010 Sergeant Gomes, a 25 year old young man, was appointed by Mayor Scott W. Lang, as the Director of Veterans Services for the City of New Bedford, where he continues to work on behalf of Veterans of all Wars and Conflicts, increasing the number of Veterans served by the Department, expanding services and increasing eligible benefits for Veterans in New Bedford and the surrounding communities while displaying his heartfelt empathy and compassion for Veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, In October 2016, Sergeant Gomes was acknowledged for his caring and compassionate service on behalf of Veterans by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services, as he was selected from 251 Veterans Agents across the State and named Veterans Service Officer of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, Sergeant Gomes, is the consummate Veteran giving back to the community, giving of himself not only to those fellow brothers who served our country, but to those that he has come to know during the course of his many years as the City of New Bedford's Veterans' Agent and has earned him the honor of being selected as the twenty-second recipient of the Southeastern Massachusetts Veteran of the Year Award:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the New Bedford City Council hereby thanks, honors and commends **SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER GLENN GOMES** for his years of service to his Country, his dedication, good deeds and service to the Greater New Bedford Community and extends congratulations on this occasion of being named the **2017 SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN OF THE YEAR**.