To: Chair and Members
   Emergency and Community Services Committee

From: Gerry Rattray, Chair
      Hamilton Veterans Committee

Date: June 11, 2010

Re: Request to add “Veterans Way of Remembrance” to James Street North and South street signs as a permanent commemoration to all current and past Hamilton Veterans (HVC 10-002) (Ward 2)

Recommendation:

(a) That James Street North and South from the Bay to the Escarpment be given the commemorative name “Veterans Way of Remembrance” to the memory of all City of Hamilton Veterans (this is not to replace the name of James Street but add as an addition).

(b) That the commemorative name be marked with appropriate signage.

Background:

The Hamilton Veterans’ Committee advises Council on all matters affecting the Veterans of the City of Hamilton and acts as a liaison between the City and its Veterans.

Many Canadians pay homage to veterans throughout the year, not just at Remembrance Day. Several provinces have dedicated highways or roads to honour members of our military forces who have participated in armed conflicts and peace missions. This ensures that remembrance, for Canadians, is year-round.

Information:

James Street is important symbolically to Hamilton veterans and their families because:

• John W. Foote Armoury (formerly James Street Armoury, James St. N. and Robert St.)
The James Street Armoury was renamed the John W. Foote VC Armoury in memory of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John Weir Foote, who was the only member of the Canadian Chaplains’ Services ever to be awarded the Victoria Cross. Foote was the padre of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Wentworth Regiment). The RHLI, a Primary Reserve unit of the Canadian Forces is based at the Armoury as are the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise’s). Many military parades begin at the Armoury.

- **Gore Park (James St. S. and King St. E.)**
  In both world wars, military recruiting leagues staffed booths in Gore Park. Each year the City of Hamilton’s Remembrance Day Services are held at the Cenotaph. The Cenotaph was officially unveiled in Gore Park in 1923 by the Governor General, Earl Byng of Vimy.

- **CN Station (now LIUNA Station, James St. N. and Murray St.)**
  Troops departed and returned from the CN Station on James Street North during the Second World War.

Hamiltonians have a long and proud tradition of answering duty’s call in times of peace and conflict. It is important that we honour both the accomplishment and cost of that commitment made by generations of Hamiltonians. The commemorative naming of James Street – Veterans Way of Remembrance represents a small token of our gratitude for that continued effort.

Giving James Street North and South the commemorative name “Veterans Way of Remembrance” will ensure a lasting memorial to all those Hamiltonians who lost their lives, served or are serving our City and country. It will serve as a daily reminder to all who travel from the Bay to the Escarpment of the sacrifices and commitment Hamilton veterans have made on our behalf.

James Street – Veterans Way of Remembrance will remind us that our freedom, safety and prosperity are often purchased by the sacrifices of others. We owe our Hamilton veterans a great debt and while we can never repay that debt, we can see to it that their courage and commitment will always be remembered.