



**City of New Bedford**  
**Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

## **New Bedford City Hall's Flag Plaza Dedicated in Memory of WWII Veteran Joseph Theodore**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** - On Monday, December 16, 2013 Mayor Jon Mitchell gathered with members of the City Council and State Legislative Delegation, city residents and local veterans to dedicate New Bedford City Hall's Flag Plaza in memory of New Bedford native and World War II Army veteran Joseph Theodore. A plaque in honor of "The Flag Man" was unveiled at the base of the flag pole in front of City Hall and Mr. Theodore was remembered for his patriotism, energy and commitment to honoring his fellow veterans.

In 1968, Joseph Theodore convinced Mayor Edward Harrington to fly the American flag at City Hall throughout the night and illuminate it with light. During a time of war and civil unrest, lighting the flag for 24 hours was a radical change from the existing U.S. Flag Code which required all flags to be taken down at dusk. However, to Theodore, flying the flag and illuminating it at night, was a way of recognizing the sacrifices of the men and women who fought for our country.

With fierce advocacy and a deep love for his country, he lobbied the United States Congress to require the American Flag to be flown and lit at all times. This tradition is now shared across the country. Here in New Bedford, Joseph Theodore's dreams and achievements are celebrated every day. For example, in the 1970's Theodore had the American Flag transferred and lit on the top of the Old Glory Tower near I-195, where it is still flown today.

Joseph Theodore dedicated his life to the United States and the City of New Bedford through his service and his lifelong efforts to grow peace and respect for one's country. His actions have had and will continue to have a profound effect on our City and the nation.

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