



THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL
of the
BOROUGH OF GLEN RIDGE
County of Essex
State of New Jersey

Monday, January 22, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. **48 – 18**

Offered by Councilor **MURPHY**
Seconded by Councilor

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HORACE
ASHENFELTER AND DEDICATING HAWTHORNE AVENUE BETWEEN MAOLIS AVENUE
AND CARTERET STREET IN HIS NAME**

WHEREAS, Horace Ashenfelter III was born on January 23, 1923, to Horace Ashenfelter and Martha Ashenfelter in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and raised on a farm in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Horace graduated from Collegeville Trapp High School in 1941. He enrolled at Penn State, and spent one year there prior to enlisting into the U.S. Army Air Corps where he was a fighter pilot, and was stationed in Florida as an aerial gunnery officer until 1945 when he married his wife, Lillian Wright, and resumed his education at Penn State. He graduated in 1949, and completed his master's degree in 1955; **and**

WHEREAS, While Horace was attending Penn State, he won two NCAA Titles, the 1948 NCAA Cross Country Champion and the 1949 NCAA Two Mile track champions. He was also a member of a four-mile relay for Penn State that won the Penn Relay Championship, which included both his brothers, Bill and Don. After college he served as a special agent in the FBI from 1950 to 1959, and continued his track career as a member of the New York Athletic Club (NYAC); **and**

WHEREAS, Horace claimed his most dramatic victory when he won the 1952 Olympic Gold Medal and set a world record of 8 minutes, 45.4 seconds at the Helsinki Olympics in the 3000-meter steeplechase beating the event favorite Vladimir Kazantsev of the Soviet Union. He received a congratulatory telegram from J. Edgar Hoover for his accomplishment at Helsinki. No American has won that event at the Olympics since that time; **and**

WHEREAS, Horace continued to run competitively until 1957, and was one of the premier track athletes during that time. He won 15 national AAU championships and set a new indoor world record in the two-mile run in 1954. He was also awarded the prestigious Sullivan Award in 1952, presented to the U.S. Amateur Athlete of the Year. He was a member of the 1956 Olympic track team in Melbourne, Australia.

WHEREAS, Horace has been inducted into several Halls of Fame including those at Penn State, the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame, the USA Track Hall of Fame, and the NYAC Hall of Fame. The indoor track at Penn State was dedicated and named in his honor; and his Olympic gold medal is on display at the Penn State Sports Museum at Beaver Stadium. The Borough of Glen Ridge has named the annual

Thanksgiving Day Run in his honor; the Ashenfelter 8K, and raised money for the Glen Ridge Educational Foundation.

WHEREAS, Horace and his wife Lillian, along with their four children were longtime residents of the Borough of Glen Ridge and spent countless hours volunteering their time for the Borough and Freeman Gardens. In addition, Horace was one of the founding members of the Glen Ridge Athletic Association in 1954, which still serves the youth of Glen Ridge.

WHEREAS, Horace peacefully passed away on January 6, 2018 leaving behind his beloved wife of 72 years, Lillian, their four sons and their wives. He is also survived by twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge as follows: That the Council, for its members, the officers and employees and the people of the Borough of Glen Ridge, extend to the family of Horace Ashenfelter fondness for their departed husband, father and grandfather and commemorate him as we dedicate Hawthorne Avenue between Maolis Avenue and Carteret Street in his name. We honor Horace's memory of kindness and dedication by naming that portion of roadway "Horace Ashenfelter Way".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread of record in the permanent proceedings of the Council, and suitable copy hereof be presented to the Ashenfelter family with the heartfelt condolences at the loss of such a special man and dedicated volunteer.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Glen Ridge, Essex County, New Jersey this 12th day of February 2018.