



Report of the Cabinet Member for Delivery and Operations

Council – 10 September 2020

Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea to the Swansea Branch of the Merchant Navy Association

Purpose:	To consider conferring Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea to the Swansea Branch of the Merchant Navy Association
Policy Framework:	None.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal, Group Leaders, Armed Forces Champion Chief Executive/Director of Resources
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea is conferred on the Swansea Branch of the Merchant Navy Association. 2) A Ceremonial meeting of Council will be organised on a date to be confirmed.
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Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Swansea Branch of the Merchant Navy Association was formed in 1998 by the late Cyril G Travers, who served in the Merchant Navy. Mr Travers wanted a place for families and friends of seamen and women to meet and respect our fallen. The Association spent eight years raising funds for a memorial to the seafarers of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets who paid the ultimate price in times of conflict, who have no grave but the sea.

- 1.2 The fundraising efforts of the Swansea Branch totalled £45,000. Together with a donation from Swansea Council, the monument, designed by local sculptor Philip Chatfield, features the figures of a sailor and a fisherman, was erected in 2005 in SA1. This permanent memorial provides family and friends of Merchant Navy and fishing fleet seafarers a place to remember their loved ones at Swansea's sea front.
- 1.3 Many of those lost in the Second World War were from the Ocean Crusader (HX216) and the Empire Wagtail (ONS 154) were from the eastside of Swansea. The names of those that died at sea are recorded on the memorial, but most have no grave but the sea, which is why this memorial, paid for by the generosity of the people of Swansea and Swansea Council, dedicated to the merchant seafarers, has a special poignancy.
- 1.4 The Association also helps the social welfare of their members, which currently stands at 40, and voluntarily upkeeps monument. The Association holds services at the monument for respects to be paid to those who have passed away at sea.

2. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 2.1 Under section 249 of the Local Government Act the Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, admit to be an Honorary Freeman person of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service to the County.
- 2.2 In the past similar honours have been bestowed by the Council and its predecessors on HMS Cambria, The Welsh Guards, The Royal Welsh Regiment (Royal Welch Fusiliers) and its antecedent regiments, HM Coastguard, RNLI, former President Jimmy Carter, the late Lord Callaghan, the late John Charles, HMS Scott, The Archbishop of Canterbury, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron, Mel Nurse, Chris Coleman, Sir Karl Jenkins MBE, Alun Wyn Jones, Catherine Zeta Jones and most recent, 157 (Welsh) Regiment of the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC)

3. Ceremony Arrangements

- 3.1 A ceremonial Council meeting will take place on a date to be confirmed.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 The proposal has no equality implications and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required in this instance.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The cost of the proceedings, including a Freedom Scroll, will be met from the Corporate Promotions budget.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The power to grant Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea is contained in Section 249 [5] of the Local Government Act 1972.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None