

Office of the Mayor

CITY OF MANITOWOC

Commendation

- WHEREAS, 1st Lieutenant Otto G. Oas was a World War I veteran from Manitowoc who served with the 127th Infantry in the 32nd Division; and
- WHEREAS, 1st Lieutenant Oas was shot through the lung by a machine gun bullet, and succumbed to his injury months later on January 3rd, 1919, at the age of 25; and
- WHEREAS, 1st Lieutenant Oas was the first local man killed in action in Europe during World War I; and
- WHEREAS, on March 21st, 1921, 20 charter members signed up after an organizational meeting held at Hooks Emporium at 912 Washington Street in Manitowoc; and
- WHEREAS, each of the 20 men paid \$2 as needed for a charter, and the necessary paperwork was sent to the Veterans of Foreign Wars headquarters in New York City at that time; and
- WHEREAS, the original name of the group was the Ypres Post, named after the battle of Ypres in Belgium during World War I, a battle many soldiers from Manitowoc had been involved in; and
- WHEREAS, on July 5th, 1923, the post received permission from the VFW National Headquarters to change the name to Otto Oas Post 659 in honor of Lt. Otto Oas; and
- WHEREAS, since March of 1921, this group has contributed countless hours of time and money to community activities, organizations, and the underserved.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. NICKELS, Mayor of the City of Manitowoc, present this commendation in special commemoration and grateful recognition for one hundred years of exceptional service to the community, our nation, and America's veterans, by promoting the programs, purposes, and high ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.



In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Manitowoc to be affixed. Done at City Hall in the City of Manitowoc this 19th day of April, Twenty Twenty-One.


Justin M. Nickels, Mayor