

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

CHANUKAH

December 14, 2025 – December 22, 2025

WHEREAS, Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, celebrates the victory in the year 165 BCE of a small, outnumbered, but determined army of Maccabees that prevailed against their Assyrian oppressors and the forces of religious persecution. A great miracle followed this victory. When the Jewish people returned to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, they found only a small vessel of oil which was expected to last for just one day. Instead that vessel of oil kept the Menorah lit for eight days; and

WHEREAS, Chanukah is among the most celebrated of Jewish holidays; it is a time for family gatherings and eight days of rejoicing. In Jewish homes-one candle is lit on the Menorah each night to recall the miracle; and

WHEREAS, religious diversity played a major role in our nation's history. America was founded on the principles of hope and religious freedom. Freedom to practice is an essential right protected by our First Amendment. The traditions of Chanukah remind all of us of the importance of this right. Tonight's lighting of the Menorah, which is a replica of the National Menorah, commemorates the victory of right over might, light over darkness, and freedom over oppression; and

WHEREAS, by the inspiration of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson of righteous memory, spiritual leader of the worldwide Chabad-Lubavitch movement, it has become commonplace over the last four decades, to see celebrations of Chanukah in many public locations, as it resonates fundamental principles of American life and re-kindles the flames of hope in millions of people; and

WHEREAS, we feel the tremendous pain of the people of Israel who continue to battle for their existence. We look with concern at the spike in antisemitism in the United States, and are inspired by the Jewish spiritual awakening that has responded to adversity by increasing in Jewish pride and observance; and

WHEREAS, as we approach the holiday of Chanukah, the flames of the Menorah share a powerful and uplifting message that although at times the world may seem to be full of darkness, we each have the ability to light a candle of hope and warmth to illuminate the dark; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 24th annual Chanukah celebration and public Menorah lighting in Monroe Township, sponsored by Chabad Jewish Center of Monroe, led by its Directors Rabbi Eliezer & Chanie Zaklikovsky, within the framework of its ongoing outreach activities, actively promoting a greater awareness of the concepts of education, morality and decency among all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN DALINA, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim **December 14, 2025 – December 22, 2025,** as the 24th Anniversary of Chabad Jewish Center of Monroe's celebration of Chanukah in Monroe Township, and do commend this celebration to all our citizens.

Dated: December 1, 2025


STEPHEN DALINA, MAYOR