

## PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, our nation was founded on the principle of equal rights for all people, but the fulfillment of this promise has been long in coming for many Americans. Some of the most inspiring moments in our history have arisen from the various civil rights movements that have brought one group after another from the margins to the mainstream of American society; and*

*WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Denville, welcomes and encourages diversity and inclusion within our community, and everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, based on race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation; and*

*WHEREAS, June 28, 2025, marks the 56th Anniversary of The Stonewall uprising in New York City. It is the historic turning point where the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Plus (LGBTQ+) citizens rose up and fought against the discriminator, which sparked the gay rights movement; and*

*WHEREAS, in the movement toward equal rights for LGBTQ+ people, celebrations have taken place around the country every June to commemorate Pride Month and to recognize the advancement of the LGBTQ+ community; and*

*WHEREAS, celebrating Pride Month does raises awareness and provides support and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community and is an opportunity to become educated, engage in dialogue, strengthen alliances, and build understanding. While there has certainly been remarkable progress towards acceptance and equality, members of the LGBTQ+ community still continue to face insensitivity, discrimination, and intolerance; and*

*WHEREAS, we must commit to support and accept LGBTQ+ individuals, in particular our youth, who compared to their peers, are far more likely to experience violence and bullying at school, suffer from depression, struggle with substance use, and to have attempted suicide; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE I, Thomas W. Andes, Mayor of the Township of Denville, proclaim June 2025 as Pride Month in the Township of Denville and urge all our residents to respect and honor our diverse community and celebrate and build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance.*



Mayor, Thomas W. Andes  
May 20, 2025

