

2023-J1438

Senate Resolution No. 1438

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Raymond C. Zanta posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Raymond C. Zanta posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated at the Schenectady County Honor-a-Veteran ceremony on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at St. Luke's Pastoral Center in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by Resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Raymond C. Zanta was born to Angelo and Philomina Zanta on March 15, 1925, in Pittston, Pennsylvania; he graduated from Pittston High School in 1941 and later moved with his family to Schenectady, New

York; he also attended Royal Academy Barber School; and

WHEREAS, In Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, on September 16, 1943, Raymond C. Zanta entered the United States Army where he served as a barber; he was discharged as a Private at Fort Dix in New Jersey on November 27, 1945; and

WHEREAS, For his dedicated service to his country and fellow citizens, Private Raymond C. Zanta earned the following awards: European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal; World War II Victory Medal; and Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Raymond C. Zanta married Isabelle Mazzucco; the couple were blessed with two children, Raymond and Susan; and

WHEREAS, For 64 years, Raymond C. Zanta operated Ray's Barber Shop in Schenectady, retiring in 2013; some of those years, he also managed a beauty shop; he loved his work, earning him the nickname, "Ray the Barber," from all the customers who loved him; and

WHEREAS, Remaining active in his community, Raymond C. Zanta was involved in numerous organizations: VFW Post 357; Knights of Columbus; Sons of Italy; American Legion Post 1001; Parents of Murdered Children, as an advocate for crime victims; Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; Crane Street Merchants Association; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church; Elks Lodge No. 480; and Schenectady County Board of Representatives, serving from 1986-1992; and

WHEREAS, As a legislator, Raymond C. Zanta supported actions taken by the county to ensure much-needed public services; he lent support to the Sex Crimes Unit in the District Attorney's office and advocated for equal rights as a member of the Human Rights Commission; and

WHEREAS, As chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Public Safety Committee of the Board of Representatives, Raymond C. Zanta worked with the County Board to act on various projects such as Criminal Justice and Arson Control; he served on the Human Resources Ways and Means Committee and was a member of the Glendale Nursing Home and Jail Task Force subcommittees; and

WHEREAS, There were several activities that Raymond C. Zanta enjoyed, including music, dancing, helping fellow members of his community in Schenectady, working on projects at home, and the New York Yankees baseball team of which he was an avid fan; and

WHEREAS, Raymond C. Zanta died on November 6, 2019, at the age of 87; he is survived by his wife, Isabelle (Mazzucco) Zanta; son, Raymond; brothers, Joseph and Angelo; sisters, Eleanor Costanzo, Ida Lupi, and Helen Visconti; he is predeceased by his father, Angelo; mother, Philomina; and daughter, Susan; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Raymond C. Zanta has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended, and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State, and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Raymond C. Zanta posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Raymond C. Zanta.