

2023-J1720

Senate Resolution No. 1720

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Raymond J. Zerwick 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 esteemed Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Raymond J. Zerwick 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 presented at the Deceased Veterans Ceremony that will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at the County Building in Ballston Spa, 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, Born on July 12, 1927, Raymond Zerwick was raised in Watervliet, New York by his parents Robert and Mary; and

WHEREAS, Entering active duty on July 25, 1944, Raymond Zerwick served our Nation in the United States Navy during World War II and Korea as a Constructionman with the Navy Construction Battalion or the Seabees; his service took him from California through the Pacific to Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, After serving honorably in WWII, Raymond Zerwick was discharged to the US Navy Reserves in June of 1946; he was recalled to active duty in January of 1950 and served another two years during the Korean War, serving in Guam and the Marianas Islands; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during World War II and the Korean War, Raymond Zerwick was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Navy Occupation Medal w/ Asia Clasp, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, and the WWII Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service on April 26, 1952, Raymond Zerwick was honorably discharged after his incredible devotion to the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, After his service, Raymond Zerwick worked at Behr-Manning/Norton Co. in Watervliet as a Machinist for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Raymond Zerwick was the Chief of their in-house fire department, served on the Safety Committee and Benefits Committee, worked as a NYS Fire Instructor to teach at the volunteer Fire Department's throughout Saratoga County, and was also a member of the Schuyler Hose Co. for 63 years, service as Chief for 25 of those years; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Raymond Zerwick was a communicant of Notre Dame Visitation Church, a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, and the Old Saratoga Post No. 278 American Legion in Schuylerville; and

WHEREAS, Truly devoted to the armed forces and helping the veteran community, Raymond Zerwick was also a founding member of the Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard, and was proud to honor his fellow Veterans whenever he could; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Zerwick passed away on October 9, 2020, at the age of 93, leaving a remarkable legacy; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Zerwick is survived by his wife of 71 years, Theresa, and together they had 2 children Timothy and Peg, all of whom felt great pride in his life accomplishments and his selflessness; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Raymond Zerwick 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 J. Zerwick 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 J. Zerwick.