

## 2009-J5567

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced Operation Iraqi Freedom will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, A combat veteran, Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines, assigned to the legendary 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, the 4-31 "Polar Bear" Battalion based at Fort Drum, died in Watertown, New York on December 16, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Raines joined the Polar Bears in August 2007 and quickly became a trusted and respected member of the 4-31st Communications Section, Headquarters Company and Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines' awards and commendations include the Army Commendation Medal-2, Army Achievement Medal-3, Army Good Conduct Medal-2, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star Device, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Star Device, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon-2; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines was predeceased by his father Jerry L. Raines and is survived by his wife, Melanie Raines; his daughter, Nadja M. Raines; and his mother, Myrtle A. Stewart; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; 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, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines, and to pay tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Jamal H. Raines.