

## 2009-J5895

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Specialist Diego Valbuena, 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, 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 Specialist Diego Valbuena, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Diego Valbuena of Port St. Lucie, Florida, passed away on December 1, 2009, at age 23; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Diego Valbuena joined the Army in 2007; he worked as a motor transport operator with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 10th Mountain Division and had served in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal-2, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Expert Weapons Qualification Badge; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Diego Valbuena is survived by his wife, Catherine Lefort Valbuena; his mother, Guertty Martinez; and his father, Fernando Valbuena; 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 Specialist Diego Valbuena, and to pay tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Specialist Diego Valbuena.