

## 2009-J5940

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Lewis County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6912 upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary on June 12, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and support the purposeful cause of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States of America, recognizing its long and sustained commitment to the principles of democracy and freedom so revered by this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize the just purpose and good works of the Lewis County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6912 upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary to be celebrated on Saturday, June 12, 2010, at the Post Home in Lowville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 has faithfully served the Lewis County community and its veterans over the past 50 years, dedicating its purpose to the preservation of the values and principles of this great republic; and

WHEREAS, The Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 was instituted on January 12, 1960, with 91 Charter members, and Thomas Sweredoski serving as the first Commander; today, the Post has a membership of 350 and is under the able leadership of Commander Milton Lawton; and

WHEREAS, The Ladies Auxiliary was organized on March 13, 1960, with 37 Charter members; the first Auxiliary President was Georgina Niezabytski; today, its President is Wanda Norton and its membership stands at 430 members, making it the largest Auxiliary in New York State; two of its members have held the high office of Department of New York Ladies Auxiliary President, Edith Lyndaker Horst and Marianne McLane, who

currently serves as the Department Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, The Men's Auxiliary was instituted approximately five years ago and its current President is James McLane; the members of the Men's Auxiliary assist the Post and Ladies at many of the Post's functions; and

WHEREAS, The first meetings of Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 were held in various locations in Lowville and eventually on the third floor of the Black River Bank, which was located on the corner of Shady Avenue and State Street; and

WHEREAS, In the Spring of 1964, the West State Street land was purchased and construction started immediately; the Post and Auxiliary held their first meetings at the new building in October 1964; and

WHEREAS, The main purpose of the VFW is to fight for and protect benefits of veterans, as well as aid fellow veterans and the community; in 1965, the first Christmas Care Packages were sent to servicemen in Vietnam and this program continues today and aids any local serviceman or woman from the area; it has grown from 25 boxes the first year to around 75 in current years; in addition, the Post has recently adopted the 6th Platoon and two monthly boxes are sent to them during their stints overseas; and

WHEREAS, The Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 has also opened its doors and rooms to the Well Child Clinic, the Red Cross Bloodmobiles, Tops Club, and the Abate Organization; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 works hard to promote patriotism, fight cancer, as well as aid the elderly and infants; it also sponsors essay and audio contests in the five Lewis County Schools and donates items whenever needed within the community, with the emphasis always being on helping veterans; and

WHEREAS, The occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 is a time to pause and reflect on the events it conducts in reverent tribute to the men and women who

served their country in defense of its ideals of democracy and freedom, on the many contributions rendered to community organizations, and on its continuing efforts to foster understanding of their heritage and role in society; and

WHEREAS, The Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 has a noble past, accomplishing its mission and performing its good deeds in a spirit of comradeship true to the highest traditions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Mindful of its proud and honored history, the Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912 celebrates, with just pride and true honor, its 50th Anniversary of service to its community and the needs and values of veterans across the State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the devoted leadership of the Post's outstanding Commanders, both present and past, and the absolute commitment of its many proud members, noting the role played by this exceptional organization and recognizing the significance of the contributions and sacrifices of the membership of the Lewis County Memorial VFW Post 6912; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Lewis County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6912 upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Milton Lawton, Commander, Lewis County Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6912.