

2011-J2151

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring World War II Veteran Vincent Muraski posthumously upon the occasion of being recognized at the AFL-CIO Labor Veterans Breakfast on May 30, 2011

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces, who served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor World War II Veteran Vincent Muraski posthumously upon the occasion of being recognized at the AFL-CIO Labor Veterans Breakfast at Michael's Banquet House in Cohoes, New York, on May 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, In March 1943, Albany native Vincent Muraski enlisted in the United States Armed Services during World War II and became a staff sergeant in the famed 79th division, 315th infantry; the noble veteran was awarded the highest Army honors for his bravery and heroism; and

WHEREAS, In November 1944, Vincent Muraski used anti-tank grenades to single-handedly stop a group of German counter-attacks at Epinal Hill in Southern France; originally designed to stop tanks, he fired his weapon from a grenade launcher attached to an M-1; his brave action disbanded dozens of Germans and merited him the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, Vincent Muraski oversaw a machine gun and heavy weapons squad, holding on doggedly for seven days, at which time his entire division, the 79th or Cross of Lorraine, pushed forward; and

WHEREAS, Awarded a Bronze Star for his heroism in the Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland Campaigns, Vincent Muraski saved a life during that Normandy invasion, when he carried a friend who was unable to swim and pulled him to safety under heavy fire; and

WHEREAS, Vincent Muraski was also awarded the esteemed Purple Heart when he suffered flesh wounds from enemy bullets in the Rhineland Campaign at Hatton; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning to Albany, New York, after his service in the war he worked as a milk man at Normanskill Farm Dairy, and later was employed by the United States Postal Service in Latham, New York; and

WHEREAS, On this Memorial Day 2011, a request to secure war medals in memory of Albany soldier Vincent Muraski will be fulfilled as part of his dying wish to obtain medals he earned but never received during World War II, to pass on to his grandchildren in his memory; and

WHEREAS, The family of Vincent Muraski is being presented with the following medals, which includes the highest military honors, the Silver Star & Oak Leaf Cluster Bronze Large, the Bronze Star Medal & Oak Leaf Cluster Bronze Large, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Army Medal, President Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal & Bronze Star Attachment; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Muraski family is being presented with the World War II Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, French Fourragere, Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, Expert Badge & Carbine Bar, and the Marksman Badge & Machine Gun Bar & Rifle Bar; and

WHEREAS, Vincent Muraski was a courageous combat veteran, a father, a grandfather, and a lifelong New Yorker; his family was awarded very special medals in tribute to his extraordinary service to our country and his commitment to the family that will carry on his legacies for

generations to come; his heroism and his incredible service to our nation should be commended; and

WHEREAS, Vincent Muraski was an avid, talented golf player, and even

when he went blind at age 71, he continued to play golf with the Capital District Blind Golfers League; and

WHEREAS, Vincent Muraski passed away in March of 2009, at the age of 88; he is survived by his daughter, his daughter-in-law, his sister, and his six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportunity to express its gratitude to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces for their tremendous sacrifices made for our Nation and for the benefit of all Americans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor World War II Veteran Vincent Muraski posthumously upon the occasion of being recognized at the AFL-CIO Labor Veterans Breakfast on May 30, 2011 and; be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Vincent Muraski.