

## 2011-J3272

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Colonel John P. Bartholf upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that individuals who, as members of the United States Armed Services, have faithfully served the people of this great State and nation with enduring commitment and dedication, merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Colonel John P. Bartholf upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, to be celebrated on Friday, February 17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Colonel John Bartholf relinquishes command of EADS on February 17, 2012; he officially retires on May 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the United States Air Force for nearly three decades, Colonel John Bartholf has served our country with loyalty, honor and distinction, helping to preserve the principles of democracy and freedom we so revere; and

WHEREAS, Colonel John Bartholf has served as Commander of the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS), Rome, New York; EADS is one of two North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) air defense sectors in the Continental United States (CONUS) and reports directly to First Air Force and the CONUS NORAD region, both collocated at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida; and

WHEREAS, EADS is responsible for the aerospace defense of the eastern United States and supports NORAD's Integrated Tactical Warning and Attack Assessment and NORTHCOM's homeland defense missions; and

WHEREAS, Colonel John Bartholf, a native of Colorado Springs, Colorado, attended Mount Vernon High School in Fairfax, Virginia, and graduated from New Mexico Military Institute in 1981 with an associate's degree; he transferred to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, graduating in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and also earned a reserve commission in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Following pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona, Colonel John Bartholf went to Fighter Lead-in at Holloman AFB, New Mexico and then to F-16 RTU at MacDill AFB, Florida; he has flown the F-16 while assigned to flying units at Torrejon AB, Spain, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, Kunsan Air Base, Korea and Eielson AFB, Alaska; and WHEREAS, In addition, Colonel Bartholf has served as the Air Liaison Officer for the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, and spent time as the Chief, Air-to-Air Operations Inspector, Langley AFB, Virginia; he became a Reserve Officer with the 134th Fighter Squadron at Burlington International Airport, Vermont, in July of 1998 where he assisted in transitioning the unit from the NORAD Air Defense mission to a General Purpose role; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2003, Colonel Bartholf was selected to be the Northeast Air Defense Sector Operations Group Commander and served in that capacity for over a year; he then was the Vice Commander (Title 32 Commander) from May 2006 to April 2008; and

WHEREAS, Colonel John Bartholf recently participated in AEF 1/2 as the Deputy Operations Group Commander, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing located at Balad AB, Iraq; in April of 2008, he was selected to become Commander of EADS; and

WHEREAS, A command pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours, Colonel John Bartholf earned many distinguished awards, some of which include: the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf

clusters, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Air Force Organizational Excellence award; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career Colonel John Bartholf has helped to preserve and protect the people, the values, and the beliefs of our State and nation in exemplary fashion; this Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its appreciation to him on behalf of the people of the State of New York and to wish him well in his retirement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Colonel John P. Bartholf upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, and to commend him for his long and sustained commitment to the principles upon which our nation was founded

and which are our treasured American heritage; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel John P. Bartholf.