

2011-J5211

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the veterans participating in Honor Flight by the Hudson Valley Chapter of Honor Flight on June 9, 2012

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the veterans participating in Honor Flight by the Hudson Valley Chapter of Honor Flight on June 9, 2012; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, June 9, 2012, nearly 100 veterans will depart from Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, New York, and arrive in Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Virginia, for a free, one-day visit to Washington, DC; this trip will allow the veterans to have a personal look at the World War II and other war memorials that honor their service and the ultimate sacrifice made by those who did not return home; and

WHEREAS, The Hudson Valley Chapter of Honor Flight, which includes Orange, Ulster, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess counties, is a local chapter of the National Honor Flight Network; and

WHEREAS, The Hudson Valley Chapter of Honor Flight gives priority to World War II veterans and terminally ill veterans from other wars; their goal is to have two flights a year depart from Stewart Airport and take Hudson Valley veterans to their respective war memorials; the one-day trips involve a unique itinerary designed to give the veterans the complete Honor Flight experience that they rightly deserve and to show how grateful we as Americans are for their sacrifices and what their service meant to this great country; and

WHEREAS, The Honor Flight Network program was conceived by Earl Morse,

a physician assistant and Retired Air Force Captain; Captain Morse wanted to honor the veterans he had taken care of for the past 27 years; after retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Captain Morse was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2004, 65 years after the war's end, the World War II Memorial was unveiled in Washington, DC; the memorial quickly became a popular attraction for the veterans around the VA clinic where Captain Morse worked; however, Captain Morse only knew of one patient who actually made it to the memorial; the rest did not survive long enough to see their plans through or simply could not afford to go; and

WHEREAS, Captain Morse formed National Honor Flight in order to raise funds for veterans to receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, to view the memorial that was erected in their honor; the Honor Flight Network now has over 70 chapters throughout the United States and 2012 marks its eighth year running; Honor Flight has successfully and safely transported over 81,000 World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans to Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who have risked their lives for their beloved Nation; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men have demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore the highest respect of their State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for

their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the veterans participating in Honor Flight by the Hudson Valley

Chapter of Honor Flight on June 9, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Hudson Valley Chapter of Honor Flight and to the veterans participating in the Honor Flight on June 9, 2012.