

## 2011-J5099

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Colonel Mike Tarsa upon the occasion of his retirement as United States Army Garrison Commander, West Point, New York, to be celebrated June 29, 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, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Colonel Mike Tarsa upon the occasion of his retirement as United States Army Garrison Commander, West Point, New York, to be observed at a farewell ceremony on Friday, June 29, 2012, at the West Point Club in West Point, New York; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Mike Tarsa is a 1987 graduate of the United States Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, From 1988-1992, Colonel Mike Tarsa served as Fire Direction Officer, Platoon Leader and TF Fire Support Officer with 2-3 Field Artillery in Germany; and

WHEREAS, As Platoon Leader, Colonel Mike Tarsa fought with 1st BDE, 3rd AD during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, After the Advance Course, Colonel Mike Tarsa reported to 2-8 FA at Fort Ord California, then Fort Lewis Washington; and

WHEREAS, In that unit, Colonel Mike Tarsa served as BN FSO, Adjutant and then Battery Commander; and

WHEREAS, While commanding, Colonel Mike Tarsa led a two-battery force to Guantanamo Bay Cuba for a six-month humanitarian relief mission; and

WHEREAS, After command, Colonel Mike Tarsa earned his MBA from Pacific Lutheran University and returned to West Point as the Athlete Admissions Officer and Congressional Liaison; and

WHEREAS, Assigned in June of 2001 to the 25th ID(L) in Hawaii, Colonel Mike Tarsa first served in 3-7 FA as the BDE FSO, then Executive Officer for 2-11 FA and finally as Executive Officer to the CG, US Army Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to the 1st CAV in August of 2004, Colonel Mike Tarsa

deployed to serve as the DIV Chief of Plans and Effects Coordination during OIF2; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return, Colonel Mike Tarsa assumed command of the 3rd Battalion 82nd Field Artillery "Red Dragons" from July 2005-April 2008; and

WHEREAS, In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Colonel Mike Tarsa's unit provided security and humanitarian relief to New Orleans' residents; and

WHEREAS, In October 2006, the Red Dragons deployed again for OIF 06-08; and

WHEREAS, In Baghdad, Colonel Mike Tarsa's unit conducted full spectrum operations in Qadisiyah and Janayn; executed over 2,500 Department of State convoy escort missions and fired over 4,500 rounds of artillery in support of MND-Baghdad; and

WHEREAS, Following command, Colonel Mike Tarsa became the Corps Deputy Chief of Staff, then the Chief of Staff of III Corps and Fort Hood; and

WHEREAS, Departing Fort Hood in July 2009, Colonel Mike Tarsa then fulfilled a USAWC Fellowship at the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Mike Tarsa's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; and

WHEREAS, A 2001 graduate of the Command and General Staff College, Colonel Mike Tarsa is Airborne, Air Assault and Ranger qualified; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which individuals, such as Colonel Mike Tarsa have 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 his patriotism both at home and abroad, Colonel Mike Tarsa has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore, the highest respect of his 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 Colonel Mike Tarsa upon the occasion of his retirement as United

States Army Garrison Commander, West Point, New York, to be celebrated June 29, 2012; and be it further  
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Mike Tarsa.