

## 2013-J3414

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring World War II veteran Robert J. Schaefer, for his distinguished service to the United States Army Air Forces

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, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as to those who have served in times of peace; and

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

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor World War II veteran Robert Schaefer, for his distinguished service to the United States Army Air Forces; and

WHEREAS, As a teenager, Robert Schaefer attended Buffalo Technical High School and also worked as a full-time welder at the Curtiss-Wright aircraft factory in Cheektowaga, New York; an aerial engineer and gunner aboard a B-24 bomber, he was involved in 14 combat missions over Europe during the war; and

WHEREAS, On his last mission, Robert Schaefer was in the air along with 1,000 other planes dropping fragmentation bombs on German forces in northern Italy; he was honorably discharged from service in November of 1945, and then began attending Buffalo State Teachers College where he earned an industrial arts degree; and

WHEREAS, Robert Schaefer served 38 years as a teacher and school prin-

principal in the Williamsville School District; he was the principal at Heim Middle School for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Recently on an Honor Flight to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., Robert Schaefer was approached by a former student who told him that he played a significant role in his decision to become a teacher as well; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Snyder, New York, Robert Schaefer's most prominent honors are the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women 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 World War II veteran Robert J. Schaefer, for his distinguished service to the United States Army Air Forces; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert J. Schaefer.