

## 2013-J3556

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Sergeant Major William J. Webb for his distinguished military service as a member of the 555th Infantry Battalion and his many contributions to the United States of America

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, deserve the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals of remarkable courage and strength of character who risked their own lives for others, and stood with fortitude for freedom and humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Sergeant Major William J. Webb for his distinguished military service and contributions to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major William J. Webb was born in Buffalo, New York, in June of 1925; at the age of 16, he enlisted in the United States Army, changing his age to 18 to be eligible for service to his country during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major William J. Webb began his tour of duty as part of the 520th Truck Regiment transporting ammunition, fuel, and food supplies to the front; these shipments were instrumental in the allied advance through western Europe in 1944; and

WHEREAS, After the Battle of the Bulge, Sergeant Major William J. Webb was invited to join the first all-Black parachute unit, the 555th Infantry Battalion, also known as the "Triple Nickles"; he successfully completed training in the United States and joined this illustrious fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The 555th Triple Nickles Infantry Battalion served in more airborne operations during both war and peacetime than any other group in the history of the United States; they especially were noted for bravely jumping into the burning forests of the American northwest on missions to search for Japanese balloon bombs; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major William J. Webb became a valued member of this courageous and highly decorated airborne unit; his contributions exemplifying his bravery and devotion to his country; and

WHEREAS, The 555th Triple Nickles Infantry Battalion was disbanded in 1950, as segregation was ending, due in great part to their efforts; members of the unit continued to serve their country in the Korean War and beyond, their place in history secured; and

WHEREAS, Retiring from the military in 1974, after 32 years of honorable service, Sergeant Major William J. Webb is justly deserving of praise for the bravery, professionalism, and selflessness he displayed in service to his Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved with great respect and reverent esteem to renew its tribute to this remarkable man who so courageously served his State and Nation in defense of freedom and democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Sergeant Major William J. Webb for his distinguished military service as a member of the 555th Infantry Battalion and his many contributions to the United States of America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant Major William J. Webb.