

2013-J5980

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

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 peace time, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these soldiers fought on battlefields, in jungles, in the air and at sea; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, Seventy years ago, more than 600,000 American soldiers, including those from the State of New York, fought at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest region of Belgium and Luxembourg; what began as a German surprise attack on December 16, 1944, became the largest land battle involving United States troops in World War II and ended with an Allied victory on January 25, 1945; and

WHEREAS, By the end of the battle, there were 89,000 American casualties, including approximately 19,000 who had sacrificed their lives; this formidable stand was a turning point in the war and was critical to the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of Europe from tyranny; and

WHEREAS, The 291st Engineer Combat Battalion was one of the many battalions to have participated in the Battle of the Bulge; their contributions helped slow the German advances in Belgium by destroying bridges, planting mines and establishing roadblocks, in addition to engaging in fierce close quarters combat; and

WHEREAS, Americans continue to be inspired by the valor and integrity

of those who fought and those who died at the Battle of the Bulge; this Legislative Body recognizes these brave individuals and pays special tribute to all veterans of World War II; when it mattered most, an entire generation of Americans exemplified the finest qualities of our Nation and humanity; and

WHEREAS, On the 70th Anniversary of one of the fiercest battles of World War II, this Legislative Body, representing the people of this great Empire State, honors the veterans who share with us the story of this epic struggle and all of the brave Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, No greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue as prisoners of war and missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and now merit the highest respect from their State, New York; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans will forevermore deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.