

## 2015-J172

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gary Ralph VanCour upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Gary Ralph VanCour upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated on Friday, September 12, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by a resolution in 2014 and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Born on May 23, 1946, in Saranac Lake, New York, Gary Ralph VanCour is a retired Social Studies teacher and Department Chair for the Beekmantown Central School District in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Gary Ralph VanCour is a respected community leader who has dedicated most of his adult life to community service; and

WHEREAS, Gary Ralph VanCour served as President of the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association, and is currently the Historian for the Town of Beekmantown; and

WHEREAS, For the past seven years, Gary Ralph VanCour has been the

Co-Chair for the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee; and  
WHEREAS, The Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee was formed by a group of museum representatives, entrepreneurs, educators, history buffs, tourism promoters, and others wanting to carry forward the work of previous commissions to honor those who fought and died in the battle of September 11, 1814, a critical event in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Gary Ralph VanCour devoted his time and talent to the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration, insuring that it continues to be an event of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, Gary Ralph VanCour is respected for his work in the field of education and for his dedication to the preservation of local history; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Council: Lake Champlain Region, Gary Ralph VanCour has helped the Adirondack Coast Visitors Bureau promote heritage tourism; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his esteemed work for the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee, Gary Ralph VanCour served as a leader in aligning curriculum to the New York State Social Studies Standards, and has been a community volunteer for various organizations; and

WHEREAS, Today, Gary Ralph VanCour is a loving father and grandfather, and a musician; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Billie Sutphen VanCour, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Gary Ralph VanCour, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity

and self-worth, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Gary Ralph VanCour upon the occasion of his designation as recipi-

ent of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated on September 12, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gary Ralph VanCour.