

2015-J175

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene for his outstanding achievements while assigned as Commander of the United States Military Academy Band

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 commend Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene for his outstanding achievements while assigned as Commander of the United States Military Academy Band from July 4, 2010-January 15, 2015, to be celebrated at a Change of Command Ceremony on Wednesday, January 15, 2015, at the United States Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jim Keene graduated from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance, and a Master of Music degree, with highest honors in Orchestral Conducting from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene served as assistant conductor of the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Symphony and was the orchestra conductor on staff at the SMU International Conservatory Summer Festival in Taos, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, A multi-faceted musician, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene worked as a violinist, pianist, and music director of the Albuquerque Civic Light Operator; he also worked as an audition accompanist at the Eastman School of Music, the Juilliard School, and at the Manhattan School of Music; and

WHEREAS, After joining the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Jim

Keene served as Commandant of the Army School of Music at Norfolk, Virginia; he also performed duties for The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," Washington, D.C., the United States Army Europe Band and Chorus, in Heidelberg, Germany, and the Army Ground Forces Band, in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, While music director of The United States Army Strings and the United States Army Chorus in Washington, D.C., Lieutenant Colonel Keene arranged and produced performances for international military and civilian leaders, dignitaries, and heads of state; he also led the United States Army Chorus in performances at the interments of former Presidents Ronald Regan and Gerald R. Ford; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious military career, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene, conducted the Dallas Wind Symphony and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra; in addition, he performed for six United States Presidents, and aided in the preparation of the music for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, and the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, as well as the one year anniversary of 9/11, the "Kennedy Center Honors," "Spirit of America," and the Memorial Day "Times of Remembrance; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2010, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene assumed command as the 23rd Leader of the United States Military Academy Band, West Point, New York, where the band has been in continuous residence since 1817; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore, the highest respect of his Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Nation's members of the Armed Forces, 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; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individ-

ual for the benefit of others which Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene for his outstanding achievements while assigned as Commander of the United States Military Academy Band; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lieutenant Colonel Jim Keene.