

2015-J265

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ray Sestak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 50th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award to be celebrated on Sunday, February 22, 2015

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energy and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Ray Sestak has given not only of his time and energy but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and, consequently, has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ray Sestak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 50th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States Albany Post No. 105 to be celebrated at a memorial service on Sunday, February 22, 2015, at the Samuel S. Stratton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chapel, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award is given annually to an individual for outstanding participation and service in activities which exemplify the principles of brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, The Four Chaplains gave their lives in the sinking of the troopship Dorchester on February 3, 1943; the Brotherhood Award honors residents of the Capital District whose services and devotion in the practice of brotherhood are deserving of recognition; and

WHEREAS, Ray Sestak served his country proudly as a member of the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1971; he bravely flew combat reconnaissance missions with the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man retired as Chief Information Officer for the New York State Lottery in 2008, and immediately offered his services

as a Disabled American Veteran (DAV) volunteer van driver at the Stratton VA Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Since then, Ray Sestak has logged more than 3,600 volunteer hours in support of veteran needs, including offering his time, both as coordinator and driver, to support the volunteer transportation program, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, and the Albany Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades; in addition he has helped inpatient psychiatric wing patients with a monthly movie night; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man's commitment to veterans was further illustrated through his service as Ride Captain with the Patriot Guard Riders; as part of his duties, he coordinates and directs motorcycle escorts for veteran funerals and supports the departures of veterans participating in the Honor Flight Network of flights to their memorials in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, A member of numerous civic and veterans organizations, Ray Sestak is a life member and Vice President of the Capital District Chapter Eight of the Vietnam Veterans of America and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Waterford Post 5800; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Ray serves as the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representative for the Vietnam Veterans of America; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Ray Sestak has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the vitality and well-being of their community and its citizens, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to humanitarianism, have certainly earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ray Sestak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 50th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ray Sestak.