

2015-J499

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Philip J. Swaney, Sr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Honor Our Heroes Program

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, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Philip J. Swaney, Sr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Honor Our Heroes Program celebrated on Monday, November 10, 2014, at the American Legion Post 337 in Broadalbin, New York; and

WHEREAS, Many years ago, Philip J. Swaney, Sr., along with his late wife, Marilyn, began lobbying for special license plates and stickers for medal recipients after realizing most military medal honorees were not eligible to receive the distinguished plate; and

WHEREAS, Today, 68 year-old Philip J. Swaney, Sr. is proud to be a driving force behind the formation of the Honor Our Heroes Program, and to receive the inaugural sticker; and

WHEREAS, The newfound Honor Our Heroes Program provides full color window decals bearing the likeness of each of their medals to veterans who have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Coast Guard Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star or Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, While proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Army, Philip J. Swaney, Sr. received the Silver Star, the third-highest military decoration for valor on October 14, 1967; during his

third tour of duty in Vietnam, he risked his life to successfully rescue eight wounded soldiers from a battlefield; and

WHEREAS, Army Medic Philip J. Swaney, Sr. leaped from a medevac helicopter into an area of heavy fighting between American soldiers and Viet Cong in the Mekong Delta; he carried six soldiers to the helicopter and treated the wounded as they were being flown back to the field hospital; he then returned to bring two more soldiers to safety; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Philip J. Swaney, Sr. continues to fight for veterans' rights; he is both a member and Honor Guard of American Legion Post 676 in Odessa, New York, as well as a past Commander of the Schuyl-er County American Legion; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his loving wife, with him throughout have been his three children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Philip J. Swaney, Sr. demonstrates his love for his country and merits forevermore, the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans 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;

Philip J. Swaney, Sr. is one such veteran; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Philip J. Swaney, Sr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Honor Our Heroes Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Philip J. Swaney, Sr.