

2015-J719

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Harold Cohen upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur Medal by the French Government, in November 2014, in recognition of his valiant service during the Second World War

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose exemplary military service merited decorations for achievement and commendable service, especially those soldiers who so valiantly served for the benefit of other peoples and nations; and

WHEREAS, It is also the intent of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those distinguished veterans whose service has been recognized by the governments of other nations, in appreciation and gratitude for their contributions to securing or maintaining the freedom of those lands; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Harold Cohen upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur Medal by the French Government, in November 2014, in recognition of his valiant service during the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, This momentous occasion was celebrated with a Ceremony at the Lycee Francaise de New York, a French-American school on East 75th Street in New York City; in presenting the award, Bertrand Lortholary, the General Consul of France in New York, declared that the award is France's highest decoration; and

WHEREAS, Almost 70 years after Harold Cohen provided medical assistance to residents of the newly-liberated city of Le Mans, France, the French Government has awarded him this prestigious medal which recog-

nizes his values of courage, solidarity, selflessness and sense of duty in the service of peace; and

WHEREAS, Harold Cohen, who recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday, arrived in France just 10 days after D-Day and worked in a medical unit; as troops drove east toward Paris, he spent time tending to the medical needs of the farmers, merchants and families of this small city and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the renowned Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur Medal, Harold Cohen received two bronze stars for his meritorious service in a combat zone; and

WHEREAS, An active member of the Sid Jacobsen Jewish Community Center in East Hills, Harold Cohen has lived in Port Washington with his loving wife, Elsie, since 1965; he grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Brooklyn College and the University of Chicago, where he earned a Master's degree in Industrial Psychology; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Harold Cohen worked as a designer of children's toys, and later served as an executive in the garment district; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Elsie, and their two sons, as well as two granddaughters, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their 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, their Nation, and to the ideal of freedom throughout the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberation to congratulate Harold Cohen upon the occasion of his designation as recip-

ient of the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur Medal by the French Government, in November 2014, in recognition of his valiant service during the Second World War; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Harold Cohen.