

2015-J736

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York, Diane Gerber upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Sullivan County American Legion on March 11, 2015

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

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York, Diane Gerber upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Sullivan County American Legion to be celebrated at its Annual Dinner on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at the Eagles Nest in Bloomingburg, New York; and

WHEREAS, Chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness, the American Legion is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans; and

WHEREAS, Originally born and raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, Diane Gerber moved with her children to Staten Island, New York; for many

years, she served as Branch/Office Manager of Tucker Anthony & R.L. Day, and then Comptroller for a small barge company; and

WHEREAS, After many years of commuting, Diane Gerber accepted the position of Office Manager for two podiatrists closer to her home; after numerous years of dedicated service, she officially retired in 2005; and WHEREAS, Through the eligibility of her late father, Robert G.

Siebold, Diane Gerber has been an active 25-year member of the Cespino Russo Auxiliary No. 1544, in Richmond County, Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, On the Unit level, Diane Gerber served as a member of all committees, as well as Unit Secretary, Vice President, and President; in the capacity as President, she was honored as Member of the Year and received Life Membership for her outstanding achievements within her community promoting the American Legion Auxiliary programs; and

WHEREAS, Diane Gerber was also a member of all County level major committees, and held the position of President for three terms, as well as District President for two terms; as the County Americanism Chairman, she received the Helen Hauber Americanism Award for her outstanding Americanism program within her community, and was the Gift Shop co-Chair; today, she is a Department Certified Leadership Instructor; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, on the Department level, Diane Gerber held many different leadership roles, including chair of numerous committees including: Americanism, Education & Scholarship, Community Service, VA&R, Field Service, and Membership; she also was both the co-Chair of the Annual SAL Walk-a-Thon and WFA; and

WHEREAS, Since 2008, Diane Gerber has acted as both Americanism Chairman and House-mother for the participants of Empire Girls State; four

years later, she was the recipient of the National Eastern Division

Outstanding Program Award for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Diane Gerber received the Outstanding Community Service Award for her work with Veterans and Friends of Abandoned Ceme-

teries, and was honorably initiated and awarded the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award of the 4 Chaplains, by the Staten Island Marine Corps Detachment League; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Diane Gerber was a registered Veterans Volunteer in a correctional facility on Staten Island, and is currently a member of

both the Department and National American Legion Press Association; and

WHEREAS, For over 24 years, Diane Gerber participated in her community as an active member of Staten Island Fleet Week, Inc., serving as Corresponding Secretary, Public Relations/Community Service Director, and Food Director; she also volunteered at the Special Olympics, Tunnels to Tower, and the Brooklyn VA Gift Shop; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her three children, and eight grandchildren, as well as one brother, Robert G. Siebold II, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York, Diane Gerber upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Sullivan County American Legion on March 11, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Diane Gerber.