

2015-J927

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life of Pat Toro, former President of Queens Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those residents of New York State who have touched the lives of others in a positive manner and who have made extraordinary contributions to our communities and to our society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Pat Toro, the former President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 in Queens, New York, died on July 3, 2014, at the age of 65, from myelodysplastic syndrome, a blood cancer arising from his exposure to Agent Orange while serving his country in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970; and

WHEREAS, A decorated Vietnam War Marine Corps veteran, former member of the New York Police Department, retired Port Authority criminal investigator, and long-time Forest Hills resident, Pat Toro was dearly loved and respected for his work in the community and for his activism on behalf of veterans in Queens and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, In addition to leading Queens Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 for many years as President, Pat Toro served as the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council Southern District Leader and as Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America National Board of Directors, where he was deeply involved in advancing government affairs; and

WHEREAS, It was largely through the efforts of Pat Toro that the Vietnam Moving Wall was brought to Juniper Valley Park in June of 2012, enabling all local residents and veterans to view this affecting tribute to the men and women who gave their lives in service to their country in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, Among many other efforts to improve the lives of his fellow

veterans and provide all former members of the United States Armed Forces with deserved respect and dignity, Pat Toro was particularly well known for his campaign to prevent indigent veterans from being buried in unmarked graves at Potters Field without proper recognition of their sacrifice and service to their country; and

WHEREAS, Pat Toro was a native of the Borough of Queens, attending Aviation High School and living most of his life in Forest Hills before only recently moving to Narrowsburg, New York; and

WHEREAS, Pat Toro is survived by his cherished wife, Evelyn Medina Toro, a son, Michael Toro, and a daughter, Joann Marie Toro; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his life, Pat Toro was known as a dedicated son of Queens, an ardent advocate for the needs of his fellow servicemen and servicewomen, and a devoted husband, father and friend to many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the memory of Pat Toro and his legacy of contributions to our communities, our State and our Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Pat Toro.