

2015-J934

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending veteran Sergeant David O. Barnum upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Rev. F A Kelley Home Town Hero Award by Chapter 38 of the Disabled American Veterans on May 16, 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 the people of the State of New York; and

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

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend veteran Sergeant David O. Barnum upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Rev. F A Kelley Home Town Hero Award by Chapter 38 of the Disabled American Veterans, to be celebrated on Saturday, May 16, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant David O. Barnum has exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, demonstrating his love for his country and meriting forevermore, the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant David O. Barnum served his country as a member of the United States Army; from 1966-1968, he held the position of helicopter door gunner with the Medevac Platoon, First Air Cavalry Division; during his tenure, he was wounded twice during combat; and

WHEREAS, In the early morning hours of June 6, 1967, at LZ English, Bong Son Province, the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and the Viet Cong launched a mortar and ground attack; before the medevac crews could launch their choppers the ammo dump was hit by mortar rounds and exploded, causing the men to seek cover; and

WHEREAS, Several soldiers were wounded during this attack, Specialist David O. Barnum and a fellow crewmember located the wounded soldiers and carried them to the safety of the communications bunker; shortly thereafter, they once again left the safety of their bunker to help another stricken man; this time both men were wounded as a result of a large explosion; and

WHEREAS, Despite their wounds both men brought the soldier to safety; once there, they treated the man and themselves and reestablished communications with the battalion to inform them of their dire situation, that all four medevac helicopters had been destroyed and at least 12 of the 20 crew members had been wounded; and

WHEREAS, On another occasion in the An Lao Valley of Bong Son Province, Sergeant David O. Barnum's helicopter was directed to what was termed a "very hot" landing zone to extract two seriously wounded soldiers; just as the wounded soldiers were boarded, the crew noticed several soldiers struggling to carry a wounded man to the medevac helicopter; and

WHEREAS, Sensing the imminent danger, Sergeant David O. Barnum leaped from his aircraft to hasten the rescue of the soldier, disregarding his own safety and exposing himself to heavy small arms fire, he sped up the recovery process and got the helicopter and crew out of harm's way; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant David O. Barnum earned several distinguished awards and accolades for his heroism, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal for Valor; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans such as Sergeant David O. Barnum 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend veteran Sergeant David O. Barnum upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Rev. F A Kelley Home Town Hero Award by Chap-

ter 38 of the Disabled American Veterans on May 16, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant David O. Barnum.