

## 2015-J1073

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Major General Stephen J. Townsend for his service to our country and his leadership as Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Major General Stephen J. Townsend for his service to our country and his leadership as Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend graduated from North Georgia College in 1982, and was commissioned through ROTC; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend's initial assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as a platoon leader, executive officer and assistant S3 in the 2nd Battalion (Airborne),

505th Infantry and deployed for Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada; and

WHEREAS, Following the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Ord, California, where he served as the battalion S3 of 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry and commanded Alpha Company; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was then reassigned to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served as the S3 (Air) and assistant S3 at HQs, 75th Ranger Regiment, deployed for Operation Just Cause, Panama and commanded Charlie Company, 3rd Ranger Battalion; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of the Command and General Staff College, he returned to Fort Benning where he served as Senior Liaison Officer at Ranger Regiment HQs and S3 of the 3rd Ranger Battalion and deployed for Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was then assigned to United States Pacific Command, Hawaii as a J-5 Action Officer and later as Special Assistant to the Commander; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was then reassigned to Fort Drum, New York, where he was S3 of 2nd Brigade, 78th Division (Training Support), before taking command of the Polar Bears of 4th Battalion,

31st Infantry, 10th Mountain Division (Light); and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend led Task Force Polar Bear to Afghanistan for Operation Anaconda and then, following the completion of his education at the United States Army War College, he returned to Fort Drum where he served as the Division G3, 10th Mountain Division (Light) and then Director of Operations, C/J3, Combined Joint Task Force-180, Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Major General Stephen J. Townsend was next assigned to Fort Lewis, Washington where he served as the Commander, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and led Task Force Arrowhead on offensive operations across Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Following his time at Fort Lewis, Major General Stephen J. Townsend served as Executive Officer to the Commander, United States Central Command, Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, He then served as the Senior Commander at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and later Deputy Commanding General (Operations), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and CJTF-101 in Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Before returning to the North Country, Major General Stephen J. Townsend served as Director, Pakistan/Afghanistan Coordination cell, Joint Staff, Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2012, Major General Stephen J. Townsend returned to Fort Drum and since that time, has served as the 10th Mountain Division's Commanding General; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his service, Major General Stephen J. Townsend has been the recipient of numerous awards and decorations, including the Combat Infantryman Badge (with star), Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist and Air Assault Badges and Ranger Tab; and

WHEREAS, Major General Townsend is an individual who has gone above and beyond to serve his country, as well as to lead the 10th Mountain Division; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Major General Stephen J. Townsend for his service to our country and his leadership as Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Major General Stephen J. Townsend.