

2015-J1822

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on May 8, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commemorate historical events which have defined the culture and spirit of the American people and Modern History as we know it; and

WHEREAS, World War II was the largest and most violent armed conflict in the history of mankind, with fatality estimates ranging between 22,000,000 and 70,000,000 military and civilian deaths; and

WHEREAS, America's finest men and women risked life and limb to protect the American way of life and to halt foreign tyranny and aggression; and

WHEREAS, The horrors of the Holocaust resulted in the deaths of over 6,000,000 Jews at the hands of Nazi Germany and the Axis Powers; and

WHEREAS, Over 16,000,000 Americans served in uniform and 405,000 members of the United States Armed Forces paid the ultimate sacrifice for the protection of the American people and for the formation of a more stable world; and

WHEREAS, Allied forces faced ferocious combat, exhibited unmatched bravery, and endured untold tragedy throughout the world in their efforts to liberate captured foes from tyranny and oppression; and

WHEREAS, On May 7, 1945, a representative for the German High Command signed and transferred the unconditional act of surrender of both East and West forces to allied representatives in a schoolhouse in Reims, France; and

WHEREAS, On May 8, 1945, Victory in Europe (VE) Day was officially recognized around the Western world with German troops laying down their arms as news of the German surrender spread throughout Europe; and

WHEREAS, The trauma and the exultant triumph of the events of World

War II still reside today in the collective American psyche through contemporary tales in novels, cinema, and oral telling; and WHEREAS, Approximately 855,000 World War II veterans are still alive today, with approximately 44,000 being from New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations in recognition of the service and sacrifices of all of the brave men and women who fought and contributed to American victory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to honor the families and descendants of those men and women, and the men and women themselves, whose lives were taken in defense of liberty and freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on May 8, 2015.