

2015-J1848

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War

WHEREAS, Thousands of military personnel from the great State of New York have served their country faithfully and courageously, with dedication and sacrifice, and are due the praise and just recognition of this Legislative Body for their role in defense of our Nation's liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea with approximately 135,000 troops, thereby initiating the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, In response to a June 27, 1950, United Nations resolution calling for assistance for the Republic of Korea (South Korea), President Harry S. Truman ordered American air and naval forces activated and, on June 29, 1950, committed United States ground forces to the Korean battle zone; and

WHEREAS, On July 5, 1950, United States and Korean ground forces met for the first time at the Battle of Osan; three days later, General Douglas MacArthur was designated as Commander of the United Nations Command; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Inchon was an amphibious invasion and battle which resulted in a decisive victory and strategic reversal in favor of the United Nations; the operation involved approximately 75,000 troops and 261 naval vessels, and led to the recapture of the South Korean capital, Seoul, two weeks later; and

WHEREAS, A critical skirmish in the Korean War, the Battle of Chosin Reservoir occurred shortly after the People's Republic of China entered

the conflict on October 25, 1950, the People's Volunteer Army 9th Army infiltrated the northeastern part of North Korea and surprised the United States X Corps at the Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, After a brutal 17 day battle in freezing weather, United Nations troops were encircled by approximately 67,000 Chinese troops; although Chinese troops managed to surround and outnumber the United Nations forces, they were able to break out of the encirclement while inflicting crippling losses on the Chinese, allowing them to successfully withdraw in good order; the evacuation of the X Corps from the port of Hungnam marked the complete withdrawal of UN troops from North Korea; and

WHEREAS, Between November 10, 1950 and December 24, 1950, the United States Navy evacuated 105,000 Americans, South Korean and allied troops, 91,000 civilian refugees and 350,000 tons of equipment and supplies from Hungnam, North Korea to Pusan, South Korea; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 5,720,000 members of the Armed Forces served during the Korean War, of which 482,000 were from New York State, to defeat the spread of communism in Korea and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 37-month-period of war, more than 54,000 Americans died; 33,651 were killed in action; there were 103,000 Americans wounded; 8,177 missing in action; and 7,000 prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, The death toll included 2,249 New Yorkers, with another 6,530 wounded; and

WHEREAS, The Korean War was the first direct conflict of the Cold War between the United States and communist forces; and

WHEREAS, The Korean War was the first deployment of United States troops to a combat zone to contain communist aggression; stemming the spread of communism was a foreign policy goal during the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, The Korean War is referred to as the "forgotten war" because it came on the heels of World War II and was overshadowed by the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated on June 25, 1990, the 40th Anniversary of the start of the war; four New Yorkers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest military medal; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, acting on behalf of the citizens of this Empire State to act now, with great respect and reverent esteem, in honoring the members of the United States Armed Services who have served their State and Nation so valiantly and honorably in the defense of freedom and democracy during the Korean conflict; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Korean War Veterans Association.