

2015-J2701

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Fisher Family upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center on June 25, 2015

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, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Fisher Family upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center on Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher Family has been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Zachary Fisher was a prominent figure in the New York real estate community and a major philanthropic benefactor for the men and women in the United States Armed Forces, as well as numerous other not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, A native of Brooklyn, New York, Zachary Fisher began working in construction at the age of 16, and shortly thereafter, he and his brothers, Martin and Larry, joined forces to form Fisher Brothers, which has grown into one of the real estate industry's premier residential and commercial developers, owning more than five million square feet of office space; and

WHEREAS, From the earliest days of his construction career, Zachary Fisher was a strong supporter of the United States Armed Forces; prevented from active service in World War II due to a leg injury, he drew on his building skills to assist the U.S. Coastal Service in the construction of coastal fortifications; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Zachary Fisher established the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation; through the Foundation, he made significant contributions to the families of the victims of the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut; since then, the Foundation has made countless contributions to military families who have lost loved ones under tragic circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher began the Fisher House program in 1990, dedicating significant funds to the construction of comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, Zachary Fisher received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in honor of his wide-ranging contributions on behalf of the young men and women in the United States Armed Forces; he also received the Horatio Alger Award, the Volunteer Action Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Senior Civilian Award, as well as the top awards a civilian can receive from each branch of the military; and

WHEREAS, In addition, in December of 1999, then President Bill Clinton signed Public Law conferring upon Zachary Fisher the status of an honorary Veteran in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, The Fishers were truly dedicated to enhancing the public perception of the United States Military and to helping those members of the Armed Forces in need; they were true patriots who ardently supported numerous philanthropic activities; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation, Inc. has established 32 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Houses since its inception, providing a home-away-from-home for families of hospitalized patients undergoing treatment at United States Military and Veterans Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Today, the work of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher is carried on by their nephew Kenneth, who is Chairman of the Fisher House Foundation Board; Audrey Fisher and Nancy Edelman, both Fisher House Foundation Trustees, act as Ambassadors for the Fisher House Foundation and visit each house annually; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of their community service, a period of constructive involvement, the Fisher Family has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by individuals for the benefit of others which the Fisher Family has displayed throughout their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Fisher Family upon the occasion of their designation for special recognition by the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center on June 25, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Fisher Family.