

2015-J2767

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ralph Melino, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

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 Ralph Melino, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated at the Columbia County Deceased Veteran Ceremony on Monday, June 22, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 20, 1933, to Joseph Melino and the former Lucinda Garafalo in Hudson, New York, Ralph Melino, Sr. graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School before enlisting in the Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, On April 16, 1953, Ralph Melino, Sr. began serving his country as a member of the United States Army; after his initial training he was assigned to post war Germany with the American occupational forces as a stalwart member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and

WHEREAS, NATO was initiated as a deterrent to the growing threat of communism throughout the world, specifically Soviet Russia and satellite countries in Eastern Europe; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, while serving with Company A, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division that Private First Class Ralph Melino, Sr. was injured in an accident; on March 12, 1955, he returned to the United States, and was honorably discharged from the United States Army on March 31, 1961; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Ralph Melino, Sr. married the former Denise Crowley on September 30, 1956, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Philmont, New York; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the well-being of his community, Ralph Melino, Sr. participated and held leadership positions in many veterans' organizations, including the Ghent Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Philmont Minkler Seery American Legion Post 252, Hudson Elks No. 787, and was a Veterans' Affairs (VA) volunteer; and

WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Ralph Melino, Sr. was employed as a construction equipment operator with Faxon Excavating, Ghent, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Melino, Sr. is survived by his loving wife, Denise, his devoted son, Ralph, Jr. (Mary), a beloved daughter, Judy (Kevin), and two cherished grandchildren, Kody and Jenna; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Ralph Melino, Sr. demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans 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 honor Ralph Melino, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his desig-

nation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ralph Melino, Sr.