

2015-J2802

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the American Legion, Lieutenant B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 on June 6, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those organizations which set an example of patriotism and community engagement throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291, held on June 6, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Kimlau Post was established in memory of Lieutenant Benjamin Ralph Kimlau, an Air Force Bomber pilot during World War II, who was killed in action during an air battle over New Guinea Island in March 1944; and

WHEREAS, Since 1944, The Kimlau Post has been a pioneer in its ability to provide a wide variety of services to its members and maintain a robust group of supporters; and

WHEREAS, The Kimlau Post has engaged in issues that matter to the Chinese-American community, such as successfully advocating for the fair treatment of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, In the course of its history, The Kimlau Post published both the Bugle Journal and the Kimlau Post Journal, the first bilingual newspapers published by an American Legion post; and

WHEREAS, Together with the Chinatown community, The Kimlau Post memorialized "Kimlau Square" in Manhattan's Chinatown, honoring Chinese-Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States; and

WHEREAS, As a strong supporter of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent

Association (CCBA), The Kimlau Post has continued to sponsor many services not only to the benefit of its membership, but for the wider Chinese-American community; and

WHEREAS, The Kimlau Post has petitioned for street safety in Chinatown, helped individuals through the immigration process, taught English, and provided programs and services for community members of all ages; and

WHEREAS, The Kimlau Post continues to provide successful American Legion programs such as Support Our Troops/Family Support Program, Flag Education, and Marine Toys for Tots; and

WHEREAS, The Kimlau Post has established two new units, the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion, to provide an opportunity for the spouses, children, and grandchildren of veterans to join the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, The Kimlau Post was inducted into the New York State Senate's Veteran's Hall of Fame for the Post's active role in, and work on behalf of, the Asian American community in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Fang Wong, the first Asian-American National Commander of the American Legion from 2011-2012, is a member of the Kimlau Post; and

WHEREAS, The Kimlau Post serves as a constant reminder of the invaluable service veterans have given in defense of our nation and its values; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the American Legion, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291.