

2015-J3026

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the arrival of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Boonville, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend events which symbolize the historical, social and cultural development of this great State and embody the spirit of the principles upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the arrival of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Boonville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall arrived in Boonville, escorted by numerous benevolent motorcycle groups including Legion riders and the riders of the Patriot Guard, a vital organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military heroes, first responders and honorably discharged veterans; and

WHEREAS, This momentous occasion will be recognized at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Vietnam Vets Get-Together of Boonville, commencing on Friday, June 19, 2015, with the flag raising and formal opening ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Our entire community is grateful to the Harland J. Hennessey Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5538 for honoring Vietnam veterans for the past 25 years and providing these honorable men and women the recognition they have earned which was often denied them during their service years; and

WHEREAS, During this auspicious event, visitors are invited to trace the name of their loved one on the wall; pavilions, tents, benches and other displays will also be available, culminating with closing ceremonies on Sunday, June 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, In addition, a ceremony will be held to honor Colonel Ken Martin, United States Marines Corps, Retired and Owner of the Lodging Kit Company in Boonville, New York; he will be presented with an award by his sons, both former Captains in the USMC; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is a 3/5 scale of the

Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, standing six feet tall at the center and covering nearly 300 feet from end to end; and

WHEREAS, This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War and was made for the purpose of healing, rekindling friendships, and allowing people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington; and

WHEREAS, Recently, the New York State Assembly and Senate passed bill A. 6101/S. 4283, sponsored by Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney, that would allow the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) to be recognized as a benevolent order; this bill will help honor and recognize the service and sacrifices made by veterans of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, is moved with great respect and reverent esteem, and, on behalf of all of the citizens of the Empire State, to renew its tribute to the men and women of New York State who so cour-

ageously served their State and Nation during the Vietnam War in defense of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, Through its avowed commitment to those who served in the cause of America's freedom, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall does so unselfishly advance that spirit of united purpose and shared concern which is the unalterable manifestation of our American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the arrival of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Boonville, New York, at the final Annual Celebration of the Vietnam Vets Get-Together of Boonville; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Harland J. Hennessey Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5538, Boonville, New York.