

2015-K604

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sergeant William Shemin posthumously upon the occasion of receiving the prestigious Medal of Honor

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Forces, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, and during which the United States proudly stood as a defender of liberty and human dignity, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, the Legislative Body is justly proud to honor United States Army Sergeant William Shemin posthumously upon the occasion of receiving the prestigious Medal of Honor; this meritorious honor will be presented at a White House ceremony on Tuesday, June 2, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is the highest military medal bestowed by the United States and is awarded for valor in action against an enemy force; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant William Shemin was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on October 14, 1896; he graduated from the New York State Ranger School in 1914, and went to work as a forester in Bayonne; and

WHEREAS, After the United States entered World War I, William Shemin enlisted in the United States Army on October 2, 1917; upon completion of basic training at Camp Greene, North Carolina, he was assigned as a rifleman to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, American Expeditionary Forces, in France; and

WHEREAS, On August 7-9, 1918, William Shemin participated in the Aisne-Marne Offensive, where he took shrapnel and was wounded by a machine gun bullet which pierced his helmet and lodged behind his left ear; he left the cover of his platoon's trench and crossed open spaces, repeatedly exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire in an

effort to rescue his fellow soldiers who were wounded; and

WHEREAS, After officers and senior noncommissioned officers had become casualties, William Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire until he was wounded August 9th; and

WHEREAS, Following his injuries, William Shemin was hospitalized for three months and later received light duty as part of the Army occupation in Germany and Belgium until he completed his tour of duty; and

WHEREAS, For the injuries he sustained during combat, William Shemin received the Purple Heart; he also was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for battlefield valor on December 29, 1919; and

WHEREAS, William Shemin was honorably discharged in August of 1919 and received a degree from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, he started a greenhouse and landscaping business in Bronx, New York; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over this great Nation, the land of the free and the home of the brave; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict;

it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sergeant William Shemin posthumously upon the occasion of receiving the prestigious Medal of Honor, and to pay tribute to him for his courageous actions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sergeant William Shemin.