

2015-J3065

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mary First Moon posthumously upon the occasion of her 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 Mary First Moon posthumously upon the occasion of her 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 Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony on September 28, 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, Mary First was born on October 11, 1921, to Frank and Eva (Ziemba) First in Hudson, New York; in 1940, she graduated from Hudson Central School; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Mary First attended Hudson City School of Nursing, attaining her Registered Nursing degree in 1944; she was then employed at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 1945, Mary First proudly enlisted in the United States Army Nursing Corps as an RN with the esteemed rank of 2nd Lieutenant; she was assigned to the Station Hospital 1976th Service Command Unit where she performed numerous general nursing duties; and

WHEREAS, Mary First was one of 59,000 American nurses who valiantly served their country during World War II; the skill and dedication of these remarkable women contributed to the extremely low post-injury

mortality rate among American military; fewer than four percent of those who received medical care for wounds or disease died during this global war; and

WHEREAS, On June 16, 1946, 2nd Lieutenant Mary First was honorably discharged at Camp Beale, California; for her courageous service to her country, she was the recipient of several awards and accolades including the American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque; and

WHEREAS, After her discharge, Mary First returned to her hometown and began to work at Hudson City Hospital as an RN; shortly thereafter, she met Roland F. Moon, and they were married on June 8, 1947; together, they raised three wonderful children, Robert, Marcia and Brian; and

WHEREAS, Along with nurturing her loving family, Mary First Moon developed a reputation as a professional wedding cake baker; she was also an active participant in the Nurses Bowling League and was a life-long member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of 43, Mary First Moon passed away on April 15, 1965; along with her three children, she is survived by five grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited her patriotism both at home and abroad, Mary First Moon demonstrated her love for her country and merits forevermore the highest respect of her State and her 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 Mary First Moon posthumously upon the occasion of her designation 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 Mary First Moon.