

2015-J3339

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Albany High School JROTC upon the occasion of partnering up with the Albany District 369th Veterans Association in renaming their program the Sgt. Henry Johnson Battalion

WHEREAS, Members of our armed forces and JROTC who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities and nation are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Albany High School JROTC upon the occasion of partnering up with the Albany District 369th Veterans Association in renaming their program the Sgt. Henry Johnson Battalion; this auspicious occasion was celebrated at a Designation Ceremony held on Friday, December 11, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Albany High School JROTC is to prepare high school students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities and privileges as American citizens; and

WHEREAS, Founded on October 6, 1953, the Albany District 369th Veterans Association was established to support all patriotic endeavors of the United States and to help prepare the youth of their local communities to become the capable leaders of the future; and

WHEREAS, Henry Johnson was born in North Carolina, and eventually became a resident of Albany, New York; he worked various jobs in the city before enlisting as a member of the United States Army on June 5, 1917; and

WHEREAS, Private Henry Johnson served as a member of an all-black National Guard unit which would later become the 369th Infantry Regiment; the regiment was ordered into battle in 1918, and he was brigaded with a French Army Colonial unit in front-line combat; and

WHEREAS, On May 15, 1918, Henry Johnson and a fellow soldier were

subject to a surprise attack by a German raiding party consisting of at least 12 soldiers; under intense enemy fire and despite receiving significant wounds, Johnson mounted a brave retaliation resulting in several enemy casualties; and

WHEREAS, Henry Johnson put himself in harm's way by advancing from his position to engage an enemy soldier in hand-to-hand combat; displaying great courage, he held back the enemy force until they retreated; subsequently, this valiant soldier was promoted to the esteemed rank of sergeant; and

WHEREAS, The Albany District 369th Veterans Association and the Albany High School JROTC have enacted this renaming to honor Sgt. Henry Johnson's military accomplishments and his significance to the history of World War I; 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 the Albany High School JROTC upon the occasion of partnering up with the Albany District 369th Veterans Association in renaming their program the Sgt. Henry Johnson Battalion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Albany High School JROTC, and the Albany District 369th Veterans Association.