

2015-J3827

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Michael Hess posthumously upon the occasion of his 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 Michael Hess posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; in addition, he is being honored posthumously at the Columbia County Honor-A-Veteran Program on March 28, 2016; 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, Michael Hess was born October 14, 1752, in the Manor of Livingston (Germantown) in the County of Columbia, to Johannes and Anna Margaretha (Scherp) Hess; he was baptized on November 12, 1752, at the Reformed Church of Germantown and grew up in that community; and

WHEREAS, While residing in Claverack, New York, Private Michael Hess valiantly served as a private in the militia from January 15, 1776, until the Fall of 1780, during which time he served in the defense of the Hudson and Mohawk Valley Region; and

WHEREAS, In 1777 Private Michael Hess was a part of Col.

VanRensselaer's Regiment that guarded Albany, Half Moon Point, Stillwater, Saratoga, and Fort Miller, Edward and George; for the next few years his militia was frequently ordered into service in the Town of Claverack and the outlying regions; and

WHEREAS, On October 19, 1780, British leader Sir John Johnson and Mohawk leader Joseph Brant, having descended on the Mohawk Valley, were easily defeated by Private Michael Hess' militia, resulting in an American victory; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service, Michael Hess met and married Margaret Schauer on February 10, 1784, at the Reformed Dutch Church in Claverack; together they raised twelve children, Margaret, Johannes, Elizabeth, Catherine, Maria, George Willem, Jacob, Cornelia, Cathlina, Laurance Landt, Jeremias and Rachel; and

WHEREAS, Michael Hess died on December 5, 1838, in Claverack, New York, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Michael Hess, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Michael Hess posthumously upon the occasion of his 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 Michael Hess.