

2015-J4063

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring William J. Baker 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 William J. Baker 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, to be celebrated at Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on Friday, March 4, 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, Born on September 2, 1923, William J. Baker enlisted in the United States Army on January 14, 1943, in Upton, New York; he proudly served his country in both the Ardennes, and Rhineland during the European Theater in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Honorably discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant, William J. Baker earned several medals and accolades for his exceptional military service including the American Service Medal, European African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Bronze Star

Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon his separation from service, William J. Baker returned to the United States and began working at Bendix in Green Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, William J. Baker was a member of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department, and VFW Post 6340 in Grafton, New York; in addition, he served as a committeeman for the Boy Scouts of America Troop 534; and

WHEREAS, William J. Baker died on November 21, 1964, at the age of 41; and

WHEREAS, William J. Baker is survived by his wife of 28 years, Beulah; eight daughters, Eileen, Peggy, Antionette, Patricia, Beulah, Mary, Joan, and Ruth; and three sons, William, Jr., Wayne and Edward; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, William J. Baker demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and 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 William J. Baker 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 William J. Baker.