

2015-J4379

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ralph Vartigian posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Rensselaer County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on September 12, 2016

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ralph Vartigian posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Rensselaer County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on Monday, September 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous and dedicated service to his country, Ralph Vartigian will be recognized at this year's September Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Vartigian was born to Sarkis Vartigian and the former Alice Postonian in Watervliet, New York; he attended P. S. No. 9, and graduated from Watervliet High School in 1944; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of 17, Ralph Vartigian enlisted in the United States Navy; for two years, he proudly served his country as a Radioman Third Class aboard the Carrier, USS Hornet and LST 1089 during World War II; and

WHEREAS, After being honorably discharged in July of 1946, Ralph Vartigian attended Siena College, Loudonville, New York, for three semesters; he later attended The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in

New York City alongside Grace Kelly, Anne Bancroft, Gena Rowlands and John Cassevetes; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Vartigian made several Signal Corps films and did one season of Summer Stock at Skowhegan, Maine; in 1951, he began his career in broadcasting at radio station WSNY in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, he became affiliated with WROW, which later became WTEN, Channel 10; he was WTEN's first weatherman, working with Sam Stratton and Geoff Davis; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, Ralph Vartigian appeared as Commander Ralph in the Nation's first children's news program on a commercial station, entitled "The Good Ship News"; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Vartigian also produced a special one hour program on The 100th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address"; he was the recipient of The Freedom's Foundation Award by Valley Falls, Pennsylvania, for bringing about a better understanding of the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, From 1970-1975, Ralph Vartigian co-hosted "Dialing for Dollars" with John Stewart; in addition, he co-anchored "Action News at Noon" with Mary Caroline Powers for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Promoted to the position of Public Service Director, Ralph Vartigian anchored "The Morning News" on TV-10 from 1987-1989; he later served as Editorial Director and won the 1988 and 1989 New York State Broadcasters Association Award; in addition, he was the recipient of the Best Editorials Division Award by the Associated Press for a series of editorials on the need for modernization of the Albany County Airport; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from broadcasting, Ralph Vartigian embarked on a civic service career, serving as Rensselaer County Legislator for

three, four-year terms; he continued as Majority Leader until his retirement from political life at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure in office, Ralph Vartigian was a member

of the Rules Committee and held the title of Chairman of the Veterans and Youth Committee; he was instrumental in organizing the monthly Rensselaer County Honor-A-Vet Program; and

WHEREAS, Along with his dedicated work as a Legislator, Ralph Vartigian was a member of several organizations including the Simonian-Avakian Veterans Post in Watervliet, North Greenbush School Board, the North Greenbush Library Board of Directors, the North Greenbush Zoning Board of Appeals, the Boy Scout Committee, and the Wynantskill Kiwanis; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Ralph Vartigian was an active participant of the PTA and was subsequently awarded Lifetime Membership in the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, he was selected by the United States Information Agency to go to Armenia to conduct a three week workshop on "The Role of Television Journalism on an Emerging Democracy"; he proudly served as the President of the Armenian Federation Grounds and was a Trustee of the Parish Council of St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church in both Troy and Watervliet for many years; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Ralph Vartigian was elected to the position of Diocesan delegate, a role he served for 16 years; he was also a participant of the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of America in New York City; and

WHEREAS, When Ralph Vartigian was not working or volunteering his time and energy, he enjoyed spending time with his family and watching the Boston Red Sox; and

WHEREAS, A devoted public servant, Ralph Vartigian died on December 12, 2015, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Vartigian is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, the former Ann Osganian; one daughter, Deborah; two sons, David and Daniel; a brother, Paul; two sisters, Sarkine and Lucy; and seven grandchildren, Stephen, Craig, Evan, Danielle, Andrew, Julie, and Timothy; as well as three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage

with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad,

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these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their 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 Ralph Vartigian posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Rensselaer County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on September 12, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ralph Vartigian.