

2015-J4546

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the La Salle Institute Alumni Association and Capital District of New York Chapter Association of the United States Army (AUSA) upon the occasion of hosting "A Tribute to Vietnam War Era Veterans With Emphasis on La Salle Institute Alumni" on March 29, 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 from this Legislative Body; 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the La Salle Institute Alumni Association and Capital District of New York Chapter Association of the United States Army (AUSA) upon the occasion of hosting "A Tribute to Vietnam War Era Veterans With Emphasis on La Salle Institute Alumni" on Tuesday, March 29, 2016, at the La Salle Institute, Troy, New York, in conjunction with commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event is open to Veterans of all services, soldiers currently in active duty, National Guard and Reserve members, La Salle Institute alumni and parents, and Veteran's organizations as well as families who are interested in honoring a great group of American heroes, our Vietnam War Era Veterans; and

WHEREAS, La Salle Institute is privileged to remember the millions of Americans who served in Vietnam, especially the more than 130 men from the Capital Region, as well as the five La Salle Institute alumni who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving our great Nation: Bernard J.

Wait, James J. Masotti, Donald J. Egan, Glenn R. Brust and William F. McNulty; and

WHEREAS, Captain James J. Masotti, a member of the La Salle Class of 1955, was born on March 19, 1938, in Troy, New York; along with his four siblings and parents, he moved to Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, After the untimely death of his father, James J. Masotti, and his family moved back to Troy, New York, and lived on 10th Street; in 1951, James enrolled in the La Salle Institute; and

WHEREAS, After graduating with the rank of Cadet Captain in 1955, James J. Masotti attended Virginia Military Institute (VMI); he graduated from VMI in 1959 with honors, and was listed in the Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities; in addition, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and WHEREAS, James J. Masotti then went on to serve in the Army Reserve and was employed at ALCOA; on August 8, 1959, he happily married Laura; and

WHEREAS, After his marriage, James J. Masotti decided to branch transfer to the infantry and go on active duty; he trained as an Airborne Ranger at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was later assigned to Fort Dix, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, While there, James and Laura Masotti proudly welcomed a son, James John; in 1980, James John Masotti graduated from La Salle Institute; and

WHEREAS, On November 28, 1964, James J. Masotti reported to duty in Vietnam, where he was assigned as a MACV Advisor to the South Vietnamese Army; six months later, on May 28, 1965, he died in a helicopter accident at Bien Hoa Air Base; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Bernard Wait, a member of the La Salle Class of 1950, was born February 18, 1931, and lived in Wynantskill, New York, with his two older brothers, Leon and John, and a younger sister, Mary; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of 13, Bernie Wait joined the State Guard in 1943, and then transitioned to the National Guard three years later; and WHEREAS, Bernie Wait loved sports, hunting, and working on cars and dreamt of attending La Salle Institute; as a teenager, he held part time jobs to pay his own tuition for the school for all four years; and

WHEREAS, While a student at La Salle Institute, Bernie Wait was an All-Star Tackle on the football team for 4 years, and was a member of the rifle team, glee team, and the band; and

WHEREAS, In his junior year, Bernie Wait was elected class President, and in his senior year, he was chosen top Squad Sergeant and commissioned as Captain of Company A; in 1952, he married the former Edith Volkmann, and together they happily lived in Wynantskill; and

WHEREAS, After his daughter was born, Bernie Wait decided to join the United States Army; he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division in Germany; and

WHEREAS, From there Bernie Wait was sent many places including Korea and Santo Domingo; on January 13, 1966, he was sent to Vietnam as a replacement with the 12th Air Cavalry Division Company B; and

WHEREAS, Nine days later, Platoon Leader Bernie Wait was directed to clear a landing zone which was to be used to evacuate company wounded; while clearing the landing, Viet Cong took them under heavy automatic weapons fire, and Bernie became separated from his squad; and

WHEREAS, Well-liked by his fellow soldiers, Sergeant Bernie Wait was found mortally wounded the next day; for his courageous and valiant actions, he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Four Glenn Roy Brust, a member of the La Salle Class of 1964, was born in Troy, New York, on December 18, 1944, to Carl and Leota (Bascom) Brust; and

WHEREAS, Glenn Roy Brust was born in Troy, New York on December 18, 1944 to parents Carl and Leota (Bascom) Brust; and

WHEREAS, Glenn R. Brust attended School 16, and later, La Salle Institute, where he was an outstanding athlete; he was Captain of both the

football and basketball teams and was a member of the track team; and
WHEREAS, In 1963, Glenn R. Brust helped La Salle Institute Football
Team win the Diocesan League title, and subsequently, was considered the
best all-round football player in Troy, and was named to the All-City
Team; and

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WHEREAS, After graduating in 1964, Glenn R. Brust attended the Inter-
boro Institute, New York City, and then the Spence School in Schenecta-
dy, New York, where he studied court reporting; and

WHEREAS, On September 27, 1966, Glenn R. Brust joined the United
States Army; he received his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas prior to
his deployment to Vietnam with the Fourth Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Glenn R. Brust arrived in Vietnam on August 10, 1967, where
he served as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist; on January 30, 1968,
Specialist Four Glenn Brust was killed in action in Kontum Province,
South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, For his meritorious actions, Specialist Four Brust was
posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Commendation Medal
for heroism with "V" device, as well as the New York State Conspicuous
Service Cross; and

WHEREAS, A member of the La Salle Class of 1964, William F. McNulty
was born on July 20, 1946, to John J. McNulty Jr. and the former Madelon

F. Reinfurt; he graduated from St. Joseph's School in Green Island, New
York, and La Salle Institute in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, William F. McNulty attended the State
University of New York at Brockport, and graduated from Hudson Valley
Community College in Troy; and

WHEREAS, After attaining his education, William F. McNulty entered the
United States Navy, and was trained as a Medical Corpsman; he was trans-
ferred to the United States Marines Corps, and began his tour of duty in
Vietnam in 1969; and

WHEREAS, On August 9, 1970, William F. McNulty was killed in action in Quang Nam Province; for his outstanding military service, he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and numerous combat citations; and

WHEREAS, William F. McNulty was a source of great joy to his parents and grandparents and all his relatives and friends including his surviving siblings Jack McNulty III, Mike McNulty, Mary McNulty, and Mayor Ellen McNulty-Ryan; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, the people of Green Island, through private donations, erected a monument in honor of William F. McNulty and all those from the community who served in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, A member of the La Salle Class of 1964, Donald "Bucky" J. Egan attended St. Michael's College in Winnoski Park, Vermont, along with several of his classmates; and

WHEREAS, While a student, Bucky J. Egan enlisted in the United States Marine Corps via the officer training school; he attended officer training school in Quantico, Virginia, during the summer of both his junior and senior year; and

WHEREAS, After completing his training, Bucky J. Egan was promoted to Second Lieutenant; during a short leave he married his college sweetheart, Elise; and

WHEREAS, Bucky J. Egan was then assigned to infantry training at Camp Lejune, North Carolina, with a specialty in ONTOS tanks; he then continued his training at Camp Pendelton, California; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of his training, Bucky J. Egan was rapidly deployed to Vietnam to support and lead his fellow United States Marines; he was in continuous combat with his platoon especially in the Thua Tien Province; and

WHEREAS, Bucky J. Egan was promoted to First Lieutenant in the field and became the ONTOS tank commander for his platoon; on February 12, 1967, while patrolling the demilitarized zone (DMZ) near Thua Tien Province in his tank, Bucky and four fellow Marines from his platoon were killed when their tank ran over a bomb; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of 24, Bucky J. Egan was survived by his wife, Elise, and their two baby daughters, Christine and Kelly, his brother, fellow La Salle Alum, John "Tim" Egan, and his parents, Donald and Mary; and

WHEREAS, La Salle Institute is a seven year, private, Catholic, college preparatory school for boys, accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; this vital educational institution enjoys a long and rich tradition dating back to 1850, and for many years it occupied a building on Fourth Street in South Troy; and

WHEREAS, The La Salle Institute was established to transform poor immigrant boys from the streets of Troy, New York, into dignified, productive and honorable men by teaching them about values such as truth, duty and honor, as well a good education; and

WHEREAS, In 1891, La Salle Institute was chartered by the Regents of the State of New York, immediately attaining the highest academic diplo-

mas awarded in New York State; in that same year, the military training program was added to the school; and

WHEREAS, Twice selected as a National School of Excellence by the United States Department of Education, La Salle Institute continues to enjoy the prestigious Department of the Army designation of being a JROTC Honor Unit with Distinction; and

WHEREAS, The School's JROTC leadership program is an essential component in fostering student growth as both leaders and good citizens; through this program students learn about, and are encouraged to respect, the foundations of our American Democracy, and are challenged throughout the day to uphold the values of truth, honor and duty in trust; 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, 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

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RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the La Salle Institute Alumni Association and Capital District of New York Chapter Association of the United States Army (AUSA) upon the occasion of hosting "A Tribute to Vietnam War Era Veterans With Emphasis on La Salle Institute Alumni"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the families of the aforementioned honorees, the La Salle Institute Alumni Association, and the Capital District of New York Chapter Association of the United States Army (AUSA).