

2015-J4547

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious institutions within the State of New York which have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities and whose focus is on behalf of young people and their futures; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC); and

WHEREAS, The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a Federal program sponsored by the United States Armed Forces in high schools across the United States and United States military bases across the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army JROTC came into being with the passage of the National Defense Act of 1916; under the provisions of the Act, high schools were authorized the loan of federal military equipment and the assignment of active duty military personnel as instructors to train interested high school students in military activities; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, the Vitalization Act opened JROTC up to the other services and replaced most of the active duty instructors with retired members of the armed forces, who worked for and are cost shared by the schools; and

WHEREAS, The JROTC Program has changed greatly over the years; today, it is a citizenship program devoted to the moral, physical and educational well-being of American youth; and

WHEREAS, The study of ethics, citizenship, communications, leadership, and life skills prepares boys and girls to take their place in adult

society; most recently, a student-centered curriculum focusing on character building and civic responsibility is being presented in JROTC classrooms, nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The JROTC program has been an integral part of La Salle Institute since 1891, when the Cadet Battalion was first formed with 128 students; rifles and uniforms were provided by the school, and military instruction ensued on both Monday and Friday afternoons; and

WHEREAS, On January 1st, 1970, La Salle Institute officially became part of the Army JROTC Program; familiar with military drill, accustomed to uniforms, and responsive to the chain-of-command, La Salle Institute Cadets have proudly answered the call of their country by serving in all major wars, some of which have served as top ranking officers; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 300 La Salle Institute graduates enlisted in World War I; a generation later, more than 1,200 former Cadets served in World War II; and

WHEREAS, In addition, La Salle Cadets fought in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan; over 100 of these soldiers made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country; and

WHEREAS, Today the JROTC Leadership Program continues to be an integral and active part of the overall La Salle experience; cadets earn a sense of accomplishment while instilling self-esteem, teamwork, and self-confidence; and

WHEREAS, Cadets also embrace leading and excel in summer Cadet Leadership Courses, as well as performing on the O'Donovan and McCormick Drill Teams, color guard and rifle club; and

WHEREAS, The JROTC Leadership Program upholds the La Salle mission by motivating young men to become moral, responsible, confident, and

productive citizens; with a commitment to the motto of "Truth, Honor, and Duty"; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when institutions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our atten-

tion, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC); and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the United States Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) and to the La Salle Institute.