

2015-J4848

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Francis A. Cocca posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Albany County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on May 2, 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 Francis A. Cocca posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Albany County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on Monday, May 2, 2016, at the Legnard-Curtin American Legion Post 927, Green Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1993, a committee was formed by the Albany County Veterans Bureau known as the Albany County Honor-A-Veteran Committee to honor deceased Albany County veterans who have served their country in time of conflict; the Honor-A-Veteran Program takes place on the first Monday of each month; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous and dedicated service to his country, Francis A. Cocca will be recognized at this year's May Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Francis A. Cocca, who died on September 1, 2014, at the age of 91, served his country with honor and distinction from 1943 through 1945, as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, A Private First Class in the Battery B 977th Field Artillery

Battalion, Francis A. Cocca served in seven major campaigns in Africa, Italy, France and Germany during World War II; and

WHEREAS, For his exemplary meritorious service, Private Francis A.

Cocca was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the French Legion of Honor, Good Conduct Medal, The Belgian Fourragere, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, New York State Medal for Merit, New York State Conspicuous Service Star, and Honorable Service Lapel Pin; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he received the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with Bronze Arrowhead and six Bronze Service Stars for Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, Upon his discharge, Francis A. Cocca was employed as a Dental Technician for 30 years at the former Cayo-Lajeunesse Dental Lab in Albany, New York; he also worked for the New York State Department of Commerce for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Active in several veterans organizations, Francis A. Cocca was a member of the Legnard-Curtin American Legion Post No. 927 in Green Island, and the Reverend F. A. Kelley Post No. 38 DAV in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Francis A. Cocca is survived by his two sons, Francis and Eugene; his two daughters-in-law, Patricia and Cynthia; his granddaughter, Pamela; and one grandson, Phillip; 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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Francis A. Cocca posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Albany County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on May 2, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Francis A. Cocca.