

2015-J5530

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lewis Smith upon the occasion of being selected as Grand Marshal of the 2016 New Hartford Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those distinguished citizens who devote their time and energies to the service of their community and profession, participating in civic affairs and enhancing the character and quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lewis Smith upon the occasion of being selected as Grand Marshal of the 2016 New Hartford Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, On Memorial Day, observed annually on the last Monday of the month of May, we honor those Americans who gave their lives in defense of their country, whether in the Civil War which divided our Nation, international conflicts such as the World Wars, or in peacetime service to uphold the cherished principles of liberty and democracy upon which our grand Republic was founded; and

WHEREAS, A fitting choice for Grand Marshal of the 2016 New Hartford Memorial Day Parade, Lewis Smith proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 7, 1922, Lewis "Lew" Smith was raised in Washington Mills, New York, where he attended local schools, graduating from Sauquoit Valley Central School in 1940; and

WHEREAS, On September 26, 1942, Lewis Smith joined the United States Air Force, and graduated from the Air Force Gunnery School in Ft. Meyers, Florida, and the Armament School in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating in 1943, Lewis Smith was assigned to the B-24

Bomber Crew located in Tucson, Arizona; in that same year, his crew received an assignment to the 307th Bomb Group, 372 Bomb Squadron, 13th Air Force at Guadalcanal; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his meritorious military career, he flew 50 combat missions as a Nose Gunner in a B-24 Bomber in the South, Central and Southwest Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Following his overseas assignment, Lewis Smith returned to the United States, and was assigned to Lowry Field in Denver, Colorado, as an instructor in the Armament School; after the completion of this assignment, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Since leaving the service, Lewis Smith has attended many reunions of his World War II Bomb Group and the 13th Air Force with his wife, sons and grandson; over the past several years, he has enjoyed sharing his World War II experiences with various audiences; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Lewis Smith returned to his home in Washington Mills, and worked as a welder at Utica Structural Steel until taking over his father-in-law's Richfield Gas Station in January of 1954; shortly thereafter, he operated L. H. Smith and Sons Service Station with his sons until it closed in 1981; however, he continued to hold the title of Manager for the new owners for the next three years; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work at the service station, Lewis Smith served as both custodian and school crossing guard for the Town of New Hartford, a position from which he retired after 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as the Mayor of Washington Mills, Lewis Smith remains an integral part of his community at the age of 93; for the past 45 years, he has been a Charter Member in the Willowvale Fire

Department, and a Charter Member in the Sauquoit Valley Lions Club for over six decades; and

WHEREAS, A faithful congregant of St Patrick's, St Anthony's Church in

Chadwicks, New York, Lewis Smith has been a vital member of the Clonan American Legion Post for the last 62 years, and continues to participate in the Clinton VFW; and

WHEREAS, A man who truly embodies the Greatest Generation, Lewis Smith has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his exceptional service to his country; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, the former Elizabeth (Jane) Hart; and his four children, Carol, Elizabeth, William and Thomas; as well as his 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, As we observe and remember our deceased veterans on Memorial Day, we recall their brave and noble deeds as well as their sacrifices which have served to maintain our most precious and cherished freedoms and honor those who continue to work diligently to support and sustain them; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lewis Smith upon the occasion of being selected as Grand Marshal of the 2016 New Hartford Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lewis Smith.