

## 2015-J5683

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring James E. McGraw, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Albany County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on June 6, 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 long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor James E. McGraw, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Albany County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on June 6, 2016, at the American Legion Joseph E. Zaloga Post 1520, Albany, 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; the committee was formed to honor a deceased Albany County veteran, who has served his 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, James E. McGraw, Sr. will be recognized at this year's June Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 4, 1950, in Vincent, Alabama, James E. McGraw, Sr. proudly served his country with honor and distinction from October 1969 to October 1972, as a Mortar Man in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, James E. McGraw, Sr. served as a Corporal in Company C, First Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, where he earned numerous awards and accolades for his meritorious service including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Following his discharge, James E. McGraw, Sr. held the position of Machinist at the Watervliet Arsenal; when he was not working, he enjoyed bowling and shooting pool; and

WHEREAS, James E. McGraw, Sr. is survived by his wife, Leona L.; his mother, Ruth McCoy; his two sons, James, Jr. and Terry; and his daughter, Niesha; 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 James E. McGraw, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Albany County at its Honor-A-Veteran Ceremony on June 6, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of James E. McGraw, Sr.