

## 2015-J5806

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending veteran Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of The Rev. Francis A. Kelley Home Town Hero Award by Chapter 38 of the Disabled American Veterans on June 11, 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 the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend veteran Brigadier General Richard Butterfield upon the occasion of his designation as the third recipient of The Rev. Francis A. Kelley Home Town Hero Award by Chapter 38 of the Disabled American Veterans to be celebrated on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at the East Greenbush YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield has exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, demonstrating his love for his country and meriting forevermore, the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1963 -1970, and the New York Army National Guard from 1970 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, While on active duty, he served as a Second Lieutenant with the 11th Pathfinders 1st Cavalry Division, 1965 to 1966; in this position, he was in the battle at LZ X-Ray where both sides suffered heavy casualties; the United States had nearly 250 soldiers killed but claimed to have counted about 1,000 North Vietnamese bodies on the battlefield and estimated more were killed by air strikes and artillery; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Butterfield and his team were responsible for the

resupply and medical evacuation missions for the battle; after this battle was over, some of the unit walked out to LZ Columbus, after arriving there after dark, it was learned that the 2nd Battalion 7th Cavalry had been ambushed while marching to LZ Albany; of the roughly 400 soldiers in the Battalion, 70% were killed or wounded; and WHEREAS, A night time rescue mission was launched to evacuate the wounded and Lieutenant Butterfield led the pathfinder team to LZ Albany on this mission; and WHEREAS, After air assaulting in, Lieutenant Butterfield's team ran medevac missions all night and into the next morning making sure all wounded were removed; around 1:00 a.m. Lieutenant Butterfield was wounded and did not leave his team until all other wounded soldiers were removed from the battlefield; and WHEREAS, Captain Butterfield served a second tour in Viet Nam in 1968 as company commander of E company 2nd Battalion 506 Inf. 101st Airborne; his company conducted many combat operations inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy; and WHEREAS, After recovering from injuries at Camp Zama, Japan, Captain Butterfield returned to Viet Nam and served with the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne assigned to Command and Control South Special Operations Group; missions from this unit were classified; and WHEREAS, After serving on active duty, Captain Butterfield served the New York Army National Guard serving as a company commander, Battalion Commander 2nd of the 105th Infantry and as the commander of the 1st Brigade 42nd Infantry Division; and WHEREAS, Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield served with the New York State Police from February 1970 until 2006; currently, he serves with the Warren County Sheriff's office with the Narcotics Enforcement Unit and is cross designated to the New York State Police; and WHEREAS, Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield has 28 personal awards and decorations with the Purple Heart being his most cherished;

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 his patriotism both at home and abroad, Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore, the highest respect of his 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 commend veteran Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of The Rev. Francis A. Kelley Home Town Hero Award by Chapter 38 of the Disabled American Veterans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Brigadier General Richard L. Butterfield.