

2015-J5924

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sergeant John P. Colarusso upon the occasion of being selected as Grand Marshal of the Stillwater Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 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 Sergeant John P. Colarusso upon the occasion of being selected as Grand Marshal of the Stillwater Memorial Day Parade to be held on Friday, May 27, 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 Stillwater Memorial Day Parade, Sergeant John P. Colarusso proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, On January 22, 1942, John P. Colarusso enlisted in the United States Army in Albany, New York, and successfully completed his Basic Training at Fort Dix in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Assigned as Truckmaster No. 931, Sergeant John P. Colarusso was in charge of 60 motor vehicles and a 70 man transportation unit, which shuttled paratroopers back and forth from various locations to and

from jump training exercises; and

WHEREAS, During his meritorious military career, Sergeant John P. Colarusso was a part of the storied Normandy Campaign, and was assigned to Major General J. S. Wood's 4th Armored Infantry where he would fight in the Battle of the Bulge and helped the United States Army break through to Bastogne; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Sergeant John P. Colarusso's unit fought in the Rhineland Campaign and liberated victims from the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp; after being reassigned as Truckmaster, he was responsible for transporting the USO Tour; and

WHEREAS, After his assignment with the USO Tour, Sergeant John P. Colarusso went back to the 4th Armored Infantry and he and his fellow soldiers entered Czechoslovakia; after their tour of duty, the Infantry was returned to the United States for inactivation, however, most of the elements remained as occupation forces and were reassigned as the First Constabulary Brigade; on May 20, 1949, the 4th Armored Infantry was finally deactivated; and

WHEREAS, For their efforts, the 4th Armored Division was the first of all the divisions to receive the Presidential Unit Citation, for their actions from December 22, 1944, through March 27, 1945; and

WHEREAS, In addition to this auspicious honor, Sergeant John P. Colarusso was the recipient of numerous other awards including the American Service Medal, the European, African and Middle Eastern Service Medal with three stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Purple Heart GO 32 HQ130, and was a qualified Expert on the M-1 rifle; and

WHEREAS, After his honorable discharge on December 12, 1945, Sergeant John P. Colarusso returned to Fort Dix and wed his wife on March 2,

1946; the couple were happily married for 70 years before she passed away in January of 2016; 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 Sergeant John P. Colarusso upon the occasion of being selected as Grand Marshal of the Stillwater Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant John P. Colarusso.