

2015-J6221

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Arthur A. Eppler posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Columbia County at its Honor A Veteran Ceremony on June 27, 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 Arthur A. Eppler posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Columbia County at its Honor A Veteran Ceremony on Monday, June 27, 2016, in Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia County Honor-A-Veteran Committee was formed to honor a deceased Columbia County veteran, who has served his country in time of conflict; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous and dedicated service to his country, Arthur A. Eppler will be recognized at this year's June Honor A Veteran Ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Arthur A. Eppler, who died on November 21, 2001, at the age of 78, served his country with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Air Force during the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, Born on June 10, 1923, in Yonkers, New York, to Arthur J. and Anna K. Eppler, Arthur A. Eppler graduated from Saunders Trade School on June 24, 1941, and went to work as a machine operator for Jenkins Brothers in Bridgeport, Connecticut; he met and married Elizabeth Emily Giov-

anna at St. Mary's on August 15, 1942; and

WHEREAS, On February 21, 1943, Arthur A. Eppler entered the Army Aviation Cadets in New York City; during this time, he learned to fly twin engine airplanes and successfully completed basic training; he went on to finish Elementary Flying and Ground School on December 4, 1943; and

WHEREAS, After three months of Co-Pilot training (C-46) at Reno, Nevada, followed by nine months of training as a pilot for twin engines at Freeman Field, Indiana, 1st Lieutenant Arthur A. Eppler was assigned to the 1344th Army Air Force based United in the Far East on May 23, 1944; and

WHEREAS, With a brief stop in India, 1st Lieutenant Arthur A. Eppler flew on to China where he spent the next several months flying resupply missions in the twin engine C-46 cargo plane; his unit was a part of the India-China Division/Air Transport Command located in Hsinching, China; and

WHEREAS, For his valiant service, 1st Lieutenant Arthur A. Eppler received the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, Arthur A. Eppler married his second wife, Jennie Louise DiGi-
oia on April 13, 1956, in New Mexico; he spent his career working in several capacities including as a machine operator, in sales, and self-employed at JenArt Ceramics; and

WHEREAS, Active within his community, Arthur A. Eppler was a Little League coach and Boy Scoutmaster for Troop 581; he was also a life member of VFW National Home, American Legion, and Sunrise Bible Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Arthur A. Eppler is survived by his three children, Anna, John and Arthur J.; as well as three grandchildren and one great-grandchild; 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 Arthur A. Eppler posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Columbia County at its Honor A Veteran Ceremony on June 27, 2016; and be it further

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