

2015-J6484

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values that are worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is hereby moved to honor those exemplary organizations that are devoted to preserving and protecting such values; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor and recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, on June 3, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916 to establish the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

WHEREAS, Although military training had been taking place in civilian colleges and universities as early as 1819, the signing of the National Defense Act brought this training under a single, federally-controlled entity; and

WHEREAS, The first Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) units were established in the autumn of 1916 at 46 schools with a combined enrollment of about 40,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) steadily grew, and by the time the United States entered World War II, the program had produced more than 100,000 officers; and

WHEREAS, The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is now the largest officer-producing organization with the American military, having commissioned more than half a million second lieutenants since its inception; and

WHEREAS, The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) currently

commissions over 5,000 second lieutenants each year, and approximately 70 percent of the second lieutenants who join the active Army, the Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve are commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and

WHEREAS, Since the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) came into existence, more than 600,000 men and women have earned a commission through the program; among them are two chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, seven Army chiefs of staff, two Cabinet secretaries, and a sitting Supreme Court associate justice; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) has more than 200 programs located at colleges and universities throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam with an enrollment of more than 30,000; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past century, the United States and its army has faced numerous challenges both at home and abroad; wars against foreign governments were fought and won; economic depressions endured; medical, scientific and technological advances were made; and the U.S. led peacekeeping operations that contributed to greater global stability; and

WHEREAS, The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and its members can look back with pride on its rich history of providing excellent service to the community and our nation, and it can look forward to carrying on its mission for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those organizations that serve to enhance the vitality of their communities and that have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, deserving the applause of all the citizens of this great nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Syracuse University Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Stalwart Battalion and the Syracuse University Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps Detachment 535.