

2015-K1528

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Ronald Campsey upon the occasion of being selected as the June honoree of the Veteran's Flag Ceremony hosted by the Hampton Bays Union Free School District

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

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ronald Campsey upon the occasion of being selected as the June honoree of the Veteran's Flag Ceremony hosted by the Hampton Bays Union Free School District; and

WHEREAS, The Hampton Bays Union Free School District, in partnership with the American Legion Hand-Aldrich Post 924 and VFW Post 5350, proudly recognizes Ronald Campsey for his service to the United States by flying a flag in his honor for the entire month of June at the Hampton Bays Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Ronald Campsey, known to all of his friends and patrons of the New Moon Cafe in East Quogue, New York, as Ronny, was born in San Antonio, Texas, on June 29, 1942; he was raised in Devine, Texas, where he graduated from Devine High School in June of 1960; and

WHEREAS, After graduating, Ronny Campsey worked for just over a year at Kelly Air Force Base and, in 1962, he followed his girlfriend back to her home town of Westbury, New York; after notifying his draft board of his change of address, his records were misplaced and he was not called up to be drafted until some years later; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 25, Ronny Campsey was drafted into the United States Army on January 3, 1967; following basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he and approximately 50 other recruits boarded a train for Fort Polk, Louisiana, to attend Advanced Infantry Training (AIT); and

WHEREAS, After successfully graduating from AIT, Ronny Campsey took two weeks leave and married his girlfriend, Geraldine; he was then transferred to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he boarded a boat headed to Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-three days later, Ronny Campsey came ashore in the port city of Von-Tau and was flown to the air base at Binh-hoa; there, he was assigned to base camp in Dian, where he and his fellow soldiers were trained in jungle warfare for a month; and

WHEREAS, In October of 1967, Ronny Campsey was involved in his first battle at Loc-Ninh; in the heat of battle, he took an indirect hit from an enemy rocket propelled grenade which knocked him over and slightly wounded him; and

WHEREAS, Even though he was hurt, Ronny Campsey continued fighting, and he and another soldier flanked an enemy machine gun nest and destroyed it; consequently, Ron was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries and a Silver Star for his heroic action in destroying the enemy machine gun nest; and

WHEREAS, After serving for several months in Vietnam, Ronny Campsey was eligible for rest and recreation (R&R), which he took in Hawaii; after returning to Vietnam, he was allowed to assume duties away from combat, however, he requested to return to his front line unit and was promoted to Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 1968, Sergeant Ronny Campsey's unit took part in a 14-day field operation, where a fierce fire fight erupted approximately 1,800 meters from the base camp; during the battle, he took a bullet through his helmet that fortunately just grazed his scalp; for this

service, he was the recipient of two Bronze Stars; and

WHEREAS, Three days later, a second battle took place, and unfortunately, five soldiers in Sergeant Ronny Campsey's unit were killed and 15 more were wounded; and

WHEREAS, On June 29, 1968, Sergeant Ronny Campsey returned to the United States and was transferred to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he was assigned as an instructor; on December 20, 1968, he was honorably discharged from the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Ronny Campsey returned to Westbury, and bought a gas station with his brother; in 1970, he left the gas station and purchased an auto body shop; seven years later, he sold the body shop and opened the New Moon Cafe; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Ronny Campsey met his current wife, Shana, and today, they run the New Moon Cafe together; and

WHEREAS, Along with managing his cafe, Ronny Campsey is dedicated to both his local business community and various Vietnam veteran's causes; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his current wife, Shana, and his eight children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; 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

commend Ronald Campsey upon the occasion of being selected as the June honoree of the Veteran's Flag Ceremony hosted by the Hampton Bays Union Free School District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ronald Campsey.

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