

2015-J6517

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Morton Wheeler Schermerhorn posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Morton Wheeler Schermerhorn posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated at the Columbia County Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony on September 26, 2016, in Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Morton Wheeler Schermerhorn was born on December 24, 1921, in Dover Plains, New York, to Frederick and Minnie (Wheeler) Schermerhorn; he attended both Columbia and Dutchess County schools and completed his education while in the Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, Morton W. Schermerhorn enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on July 10, 1942; after basic training, where he qualified as

marksman with the M1 rifle, he received additional training for a light anti-aircraft gun crew; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Morton W. Schermerhorn was assigned to the Pacific Theater of Operation from December 3, 1942 until June 17, 1943, when he was assigned as a guard at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, On November 14, 1945, Private First Class Morton W. Schermerhorn was honorably discharged from the Redistribution Battalion; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Morton W. Schermerhorn met and married his future wife, Gladys Marie Matthews on August 19, 1944; together, the couple raised eight children in Ghent, New York; for 40 years, he was employed as a mason in Albany and Columbia Counties; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of his community, Morton W. Schermerhorn was a member of the Ghent Fire Company, Ghent Sportsmen Association, Chatham American Legion Post 42, and Masons Union No. 6 as well as the Ghent V.F.W. Post 5933, where he held the positions of both Post Commander and Color Guard; he also served as a communicant of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man and soldier's loving family will always remember him as their hero who taught them about hard work and respect; a true American patriot, he taught his children that the Stars and Stripes was a symbol for freedom and honesty; and

WHEREAS, Morton Wheeler Schermerhorn died on October 27, 2005, at the age of 83; he is survived by his wife, Gladys; eight children, George, Joan, Kenneth, Gloria, Marcia, Rita, Peggy and Morton, Jr.; as well as 18 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren; 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 Morton Wheeler Schermerhorn posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Morton Wheeler Schermerhorn.