

2015-J6519

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joseph Henry Ptaszek 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 Joseph Henry Ptaszek 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 Monday, November 28, 2016; 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, Born on August 11, 1915, in Upper Red Hook, New York, Joseph Henry Ptaszek was the son of Michael and Nellie Ptaszek; in 1934, he enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a public work relief program out of Boston Corners, New York; he also worked as a millwright; and

WHEREAS, On January 4, 1943, Joseph Henry Ptaszek began his service to his country as a member of the United States Army; following the completion of his basic training where he qualified as a sharpshooter

with the M1, and after receiving additional training on the 90mm gun, Gunnery Technician Fourth Class Joseph Henry Ptaszek was assigned to Headquarters Battery, Harbor Defense of Boston, Fort Banks, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Serving in the military police, Joseph Henry Ptaszek was the gun commander on a 90mm gun crew which consisted of 13 men; he was charged with the responsibility of loading, firing, supervising maintenance, controlling operations and tactical employment of the gun and crew; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Henry Ptaszek's 90mm fixed/mobile gun was used in defense of Boston Harbor against enemy aircraft, mechanized forces and small naval vessels; collaborating with scientists from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he trained the first gunnery crew to use radar-assisted artillery for the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1946, Joseph Henry Ptaszek was honorably discharged at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and served the next 10 years in the Naval Reserves of the Third Naval District; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his outstanding service, Joseph Henry Ptaszek was awarded the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Sharpshooter Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon his re-entry into civilian life, Joseph Henry Ptaszek met Nellie Jenowich of Taghkanic, New York, and the couple was united in marriage on June 1, 1952; together they opened the Joe-Nel Trailer Park in Greenport, New York, and later purchased The Red Mill in Claverack, New York, where they opened an antique shop; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of his community, this remarkable man was a member of the Columbia County Ukrainian Baseball Team, a life member of the Greenport Fire Company #1, the Hudson Carpenters Local, serving as

President for 40 years, the Polish Sportsman's Club for 67 years as well as the Old Time Power Association Engine Club serving for 36 years; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Henry Ptaszek died on March 29, 2013, at the age of

97; predeceased by his wife, Nellie, he is survived by his daughter, Paula, as well as two grandchildren, Joseph and Nelley; and WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Joseph Henry Ptaszek demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his 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 Joseph Henry Ptaszek 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 Joseph Henry Ptaszek.