

## 2017-K674

Assembly Resolution No. 674

BY: M. of A. Zebrowski

COMMENDING Jerry Donnellan upon the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Jerry Donnellan upon the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1946, Jerry Donnellan has been a lifelong Rockland County resident; he grew up along the Hudson River in the Town of Nyack before the first Tappan Zee Bridge was built; after graduating from Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia, New York, he attended Rockland Community College before transferring to Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, Jerry Donnellan was drafted into the United States Army, where he proudly served his country during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, On October 24, 1969, Sergeant Jerry Donnellan was wounded while on patrol with the 196th Light Infantry in Vietnam's central highlands; he was shot twice and hit with a grenade, leaving countless pieces of shrapnel in his body; and

WHEREAS, After his honorable discharge, Jerry Donnellan spent more

than a year recovering and undergoing rehabilitation after his many grievous injuries; during this time, he worked as a stage manager with Frank Sinatra and got to travel all over the world; for his courageous service, he was awarded multiple Purple Heart Medals; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Donnellan joined the staff of Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency; as its Director, he has seen the county's veteran population change predominantly from those who served in World War II, to Korea and Vietnam, and now the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; and

WHEREAS, At the beginning of Jerry Donnellan's tenure, the Veterans Service Agency consisted of 30,000 World War II veterans; today, there are almost 10,000 members; and

WHEREAS, In his role as Director, Jerry Donnellan was instrumental in establishing several programs for local veterans such as the Memorial Day Watchfires and a veterans health clinic; he also helped to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder, and opened the first homeless shelter for veterans in Valley Cottage (Missing In America), which has since closed and has been transferred to Homes for Heroes in Tappan; and

WHEREAS, After more than three decades of distinguished service to the veterans of Rockland County, Jerry Donnellan will officially retire in December of 2017; and

WHEREAS, For the past 30 years, Jerry Donnellan rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Jerry Donnellan was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency, Jerry Donnellan earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Jerry Donnellan upon the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to Rockland County's Veterans Service Agency, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jerry Donnellan.