

2021-J130

Senate Resolution No. 130

BY: Senator JORDAN

COMMENDING Harold E. Williams 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, 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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Harold E. Williams 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; he will receive this prestigious honor at an event hosted by the Father Francis Kelley Society in December of 2020; and

WHEREAS, In addition, 97-year-old Harold E. Williams will accept his diploma from Ichabod Crane High School, as well as various citations and a shadow box to display his military accolades; 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, Harold E. Williams was born in 1923 in Lebanon Springs, New York, where he attended Hoyt Corners Elementary School until the eighth grade when he left to work in the fruit and vegetables fields to financially assist his parents and younger sister; later, he took a job with a mill, and then the Watervliet Arsenal; and

WHEREAS, On June 12, 1942, Harold E. Williams enlisted in the United States Army and served in the 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion during World War II; during his deployment, he provided armored support for the 1st Infantry Division in the North African Campaign, fought at Kasserine Pass in the Tunisian Campaign and was part of the Invasion of Sicily; and

WHEREAS, Tec-5 Harold E. Williams was then transferred to England to plan for the D-Day Invasion, and was part of the 1st Wave to attack Omaha Beach during the Battle of Elsenhorn Ridge on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, This meritorious soldier continued to fight across Northern France in the Normandy Campaign until September 7, 1944, when he was transferred to Ardennes for Battle of the Bulge from December 12, 1944 through January 25, 1945; during the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign, he took out 40 German tanks in the Battle of Herten Forest and Battle of Elsenhorn Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Harold E. Williams and his battalion next participated in the Rhineland Campaign where they fought at Leipzig, Germany, and moved on to Czechoslovakia; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during the second world war, Harold E. Williams was awarded the American Theatre Campaign Medal, European-Africa-Middle Eastern Medal, Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (D-Day), Republic of France Certificate (Normandy Landing,

D-Day); and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service on October 21, 1945, Harold E. Williams returned to Valatie, New York, where he began his long and distinguished career with the United States Postal Service; the following year, he married his first wife, and together, they raised four children; after her death, he remarried and currently lives at the St. Peter's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Harold E. Williams has 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 commend Harold E. Williams 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 Harold E. Williams.