

2021-J546

Senate Resolution No. 546

BY: Senator BRESLIN

COMMENDING Private Joseph J. Kucskar 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, 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 Private Joseph J. Kucskar 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

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, Joseph J. Kucskar was born in Connecticut on March 13, 1915; he attended school until the 8th grade and left due to learning disabilities related to dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his military service, Joseph J. Kucskar worked at Cluett & Peabody Company, in Troy, New York, as a shirt ironer from 1933 until 1941; and

WHEREAS, Joseph J. Kucskar enlisted in the United States Army on March 21, 1941; he was deployed to the Philippines on December 8, 1941, and fought the Japanese in the southern Philippines (Luzon Island); all United States and Filipino combatants fought valiantly against the Japanese who had serious advantages of soldiers, weapons, re-supply and air cover; and

WHEREAS, Private Joseph J. Kucskar was captured on April 9, 1942, and forced to march in the Bataan Death March along with 10,000 American soldiers and 60,000 Filipinos; he was a Prisoner of War (POW) at Camp Cabanatuan, April 17, 1942, and died there on November 9, 1942, from amoebic dysentery, caused by drinking polluted water; and

WHEREAS, His remains were sent to the United States and he is buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, in his hometown of Watervliet, New York; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during World War II, Private Joseph J. Kucskar was awarded the: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, POW Medal, American Defense Medal, American Theatre Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Philippine Defense Ribbon, Philippine Independence Ribbon, United States Presidential Citation, Philippine Presidential Citation Army Meritorious Unit Citation, New York State Medal for Merit, New York State Conspicuous Service Star, and New York State Conspicuous Service Cross; and

WHEREAS, Private Joseph J. Kucskar will be honored posthumously at a

Veterans Assembly in Green Island, New York, in November of 2021; in addition, he will receive his high school diploma; 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 his patriotism both at home and abroad, Private Joseph J. Kucskar 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 Private Joseph J. Kucskar 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 Private Joseph J. Kucskar.