

2021-J997

Senate Resolution No. 997

BY: Senator BROOKS

COMMEMORATING the 80th Anniversary of Civil Air
Patrol

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing and honoring those organizations selflessly dedicated to protecting our country and improving the health and well-being of communities throughout the State and our nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol has two categories of legislative memberships; one for the national legislative unit designated as the Congressional Squadron, and the other for state legislative squadrons; and

WHEREAS, Each year, on the first day of December, this vital organization remembers the sacrifices of its earliest members, whose extraordinary contributions to America continue today in its citizen volunteers' vigilant service to country and community; and

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was founded on December 1, 1941, less than one week before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor led to America's involvement in World War II; its members quickly proved their

worth by conducting aerial patrols on their own, heroism which discouraged and eventually helped stop deadly German U-boat attacks along United States coastlines and waterways; and

WHEREAS, On May 26, 1948, Congress passed a law designating CAP as the Air Force Auxiliary with three primary missions - emergency missions, cadet programs, and aerospace education; and

WHEREAS, The wartime service of CAP's "subchasers" helped stop the loss of American and Allied merchant vessels, saving the lives of untold thousands of sailors and countless millions of dollars of war materiel destined for the battlefields in Europe and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, In addition to coastal patrols, CAP aircrews assisted with other essential wartime missions on the home front, such as search and rescue, disaster relief, border patrol, forest fire patrol, target towing for military practice and transporting critical supplies; and

WHEREAS, Recent high-visibility CAP missions have included responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic, donating over 40,000 days of service to their communities, states and the nation; tornadoes, forest fires, Hawaiian and Pacific Coast tsunamis, hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Irma and Maria, wildfires in the Southwest and in California, Midwest flooding and September 11 terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, Those services provided by Civil Air Patrol's World War II-era veterans earned CAP a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress, on December 10, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 61,000 CAP members continue to build on the terrific foundation forged by their forefathers; and

WHEREAS, As a top resource for disaster relief, CAP is often first on the scene, providing aerial photography and damage assessment to help emergency officials pinpoint critical infrastructure needs in real time as well as ground team support, often providing door-to-door services, which includes water, food and supply delivery for victims; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Civil Air Patrol reaches tens of thousands of the country's school-age children and their teachers, with a comprehensive selection of academic programs that stress the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, in addition to programs that encourage a drug-free lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, CAPs membership includes more than 475 chaplains who fulfill critical needs for deployed U.S. military chaplains and provide counseling services for soldiers and their families, as well as disaster victims; and

WHEREAS, In addition, to its partnership with Wreaths Across America, CAP annually honors military veterans by helping sponsor and place tens of thousands of wreaths at the graves of fallen soldiers at U.S. cemeteries nationwide and overseas; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Major General Mark Smith, CAP's legacy lives on in today's all-volunteer force, which continues to contribute to America's defense by providing aerial reconnaissance for homeland security, giving Air Force fighter pilots practice in protecting airspace and helping train United States military troops for service overseas; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 80-year history, CAP has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of CAP is in direct correlation to the efforts of its volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the communities it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of Civil Air Patrol; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Major General Mark Smith, National Commander and Chief Executive Officer, Civil Air Patrol.