



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Luis R. Sepúlveda

## Senator Luis Sepúlveda and the New York State Senate Honor Hero Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell with Resolution J247

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I am proud to announce that yesterday, the New York State Senate honored Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell with Resolution J247. Aquilino is a true hero, who embodies the American dream through his unwavering service and commitment to his country. A Dominican Republic immigrant, he became a US citizen, received a college education, and served in the US Army and Army Reserve during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later joined the Capitol Police Department in Washington D.C.

On January 6, 2021, Aquilino demonstrated remarkable bravery and courage during the attack on the US Capitol. Despite being subjected to chemical sprays and suffering multiple injuries, he continued to serve for 15 consecutive days after the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Today, the New York State Senate recognizes Staff Sergeant Aquilino Gonell for his heroism and service. Staff Sergeant Gonell proudly testified before Congress on July 27, 2022, ensuring that history accurately records the horrific events of that day and received from President Joe Biden the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second highest award a U.S. citizen can receive.

Staff Sergeant Gonell continues to heal from the physical and mental injuries sustained during the attack. I am also pleased to announce that in early March of this year, Sergeant Gonell will receive a recognition and Resolution from the Dominican Republic Senate in the hands of Senator Alexis Victoria Yeb and the Honorable President of the Senate, Eduardo Estrella. This recognition marks the first time a person has received such a well-deserved honor from both the New York State Senate and the Dominican Republic Senate.