

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION designating New York State as a Purple Heart State

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in our nation's wars, 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 designate New York State as a Purple Heart State; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart Medal is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use, and is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the United States military who have been wounded or killed in action; and

WHEREAS, On August 7, 1782, during the American Revolution, General George Washington issued an order establishing the Badge of Military Merit to honor merit, particularly among the enlisted soldiers; consisting of a heart made of purple cloth, the Badge of Military Merit was distinctive because it was open only to enlisted men; and

WHEREAS, Although not continued after the American Revolution, the Badge of Military Merit was later renamed the Purple Heart and reinstated by the United States War Department, now the Department of Defense, on February 22, 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth; and

WHEREAS, The Purple Heart has been awarded to nearly two million Americans who have been wounded in battle or killed in action; and

WHEREAS, As Americans, it is our responsibility to ensure that our history is documented and reverence is given to our war heroes who served this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military; it is fitting and proper that we, who are the beneficiaries of the courage of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to designate New York State as a Purple Heart State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of New York.