

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Cease-Fire that ended the Korean War

WHEREAS, Thousands of military personnel from the great State of New York have served their country faithfully and courageously, with dedication and sacrifice, and are due the praise and just recognition of this Legislative Body for their role in the defense of our nation's liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, In response to the June 25, 1950, invasion of South Korea by North Korea and the June 27, 1950 United Nations resolution calling for assistance for the Republic of Korea (South Korea), President Harry Truman ordered American air and naval forces activated and, on June 30, 1950, committed ground forces to the Korean battle zone; and

WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, three years and 32 days after North Korean forces penetrated the 38th Parallel to launch the Korean War, hostilities ended, at approximately the point they had begun, with the signing of an armistice; this year, with pride and pause, we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Cease-Fire that ended this conflict; and

WHEREAS, A conflict of virulent devastation, the Korean War was one of the first major tests to be faced by the United Nations since its founding in 1945; it represented a battle of ideologies -- communism vs. democracy; it involved or impacted upon all of the world's major powers; it caused the devastation of Korea; and it resulted in the loss of over one million lives, including nearly 55,000 Americans, before the armistice was signed at Panmunjom, dividing Korea into two separate nations at a line marked by the 38th Parallel; and

WHEREAS, Before the hostilities ended in 1953, 5.7 million Americans had served in the conflict, of which 482,000 came from New York State, including the 2,200 New Yorkers who gave their lives for their country; and

WHEREAS, Often called the "Forgotten War" and the "Forgotten Veterans," due to the Korean War's inconclusive ending and its chronological place in history, between World War II and the 10-year Vietnam War, Korean War Veterans, and the families of those who died or are missing, have faithfully endeavored to help the citizens of this great State and nation in their understanding of, and appreciation for, the courage, commitment and sacrifices made by America's servicemen and women in that first great struggle against communism; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, acting on behalf of the citizens of the Empire State, to honor, with great respect and reverent esteem, the members of the Armed Services who served their State and nation so valiantly and honorably in the defense of freedom and democracy during the Korean War; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Cease-Fire that ended the Korean War, and to renew its tribute to the men and women of the State of New York who served so faithfully and courageously; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York Chapters of the Korean War Veterans Association.