

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jim Lewis upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Welles Award by the Waterloo Library and Historical Association on May 24, 2013

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those patriotic and civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jim Lewis upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Welles Award by the Waterloo Library and Historical Association; this esteemed award will be presented during the Village of Waterloo's 14th Annual Celebrate/Commemorate Memorial Day festivities at a wine and cheese reception on Friday, May 24, 2013, at the Library and Historical Society building in Waterloo, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Jim Wells will be honored in the Celebrate/Commemorate parade on Saturday, May 25, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Welles Award recognizes a resident of Waterloo who, through his efforts and time, has made the village a better place to live, work, worship and enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lewis is being honored for his long time commitment, dedication and desire to give of himself for the betterment of Waterloo and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1927, Jim Lewis left high school and enlisted in the United States Army at the end of World War II; he was placed in the 12th Calvary Regiment of the 1st Calvary Division and assigned to occupation duty in Japan; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lewis was discharged from the Army in February 1948; he found employment as a ward attendant at Willard State Hospital where, during his brief tenure he met his future wife; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Jim Lewis joined the 343rd General Hospital Army Reserve Unit and, on September 3, 1950, his unit was re-called to active duty with the outbreak of the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lewis was sent back to Japan with the 343rd Unit and worked in several base hospitals as a medical technician; he was discharged from this second tour of duty in February 1952; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lewis retired from a more than 36 year career in the telephone industry in 1986 whereupon he dedicated his time to volunteer work and activities with area veterans' organizations; and

WHEREAS, After Waterloo's federal recognition as the Birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966, Jim Lewis served as the Memorial Day Parade chairman, continuing in that post for the next 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lewis served a term as President of the New York State Korean War Veterans; he is currently the Director of the Seneca County Veterans Service Agency, serves on the Finger Lakes Veterans Advisory Board for the Canandaigua VA Hospital and is also an Advisory Board member for the Sampson Veterans Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Jim Lewis is a member of American Legion Post 435 and past Commander of the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 6433; and

WHEREAS, He is a long time member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was active with the Waterloo Little League Baseball program, served on the Waterloo Board of Education, and has been honored for his work with Boy Scouts; and

WHEREAS, Jim Lewis was the beloved husband of the late Betty Lewis; he is the proud father of Thomas James Lewis III, and the adoring grandfather of four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Jim Lewis has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jim Lewis upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2013 Welles Award by the Waterloo Library and Historical Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jim Lewis.