

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Cadet Squadron from the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate, January 14, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Cadet Squadron from the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate, to be held on Monday, January 14, 2013, at the New York State Capitol in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol enjoys a proud legacy of selfless sacrifice and service to country and community that spans decades; the organization was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of volunteer members of the Civil Air Patrol answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 476 incorporating the Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization; on May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing the Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Three primary mission areas were set forth at the inception of the Civil Air Patrol: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Civil Air Patrol handles 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions, with approximately 75 lives saved each year; its members are generally the first on the scene transmitting satellite digital images of the damage within seconds around the world and providing disaster relief and emergency services following natural and manmade disasters, including such phenomena as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Texas and Oklahoma wildfires, tornadoes in the south and central United States, North Dakota flash flooding and the October 2006 earthquake in Hawaii, as well as humanitarian missions along the United States and Mexican border; and

WHEREAS, In response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, the Civil Air Patrol's New York Wing promptly reacted by: flying 373 damage assessment sorties, and providing 143,360 aerial photographs to New York disaster relief organizations, FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers; providing air transportation throughout the affected region for disaster response teams; deploying 30 volunteers to assist with shelter operations conducted by the New York City Office of Emergency Management; and installing 40 volunteers to assist the Red Cross with the logistics of relief supplies; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Civil Air Patrol members are dedicated to counterdrug reconnaissance and to teaching a new generation about aerospace and its impact on our future; its cadet programs ensure our youth receive the finest leadership training the Nation has to offer; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Cadet Squadron from the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard include:

Dennis Woytowicz of Selden, New York; Debbie Woytowicz of Selden, New

York; Thor Hawrey of Miller Place, New York; Ed Nelson of Manorville, New York; Peter Tsakonas of Port Jefferson Station, New York; Alex Woytowitz of Selden, New York; Christopher Russo of Sayville, New York; Connor Morse of Holbrook, New York; Richard Breier of Holbrook, New York; Josh Medina of Selden, New York; and Louis Fenech of Sayville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Air Patrol makes a huge impact each and every day, going above and beyond to make a profound difference in America's communities; and

WHEREAS, This occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the members of the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Cadet Squadron from the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Cadet Squadron from the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard and its members upon the occasion of presenting the colors at the start of the session of the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Jack Ozer, New York Wing, Civil Air Patrol, and the aforementioned members of the Colonel Francis S. Gabreski Cadet Squadron from the Long Island Group of the Civil Air Patrol Color Guard.