

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so faithfully and courageously when our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated on Monday, August 25, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by a resolution in 2014 and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. died on August 8, 2007, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 11, 1919, to Elizabeth and Edward Hofem, Sr. in Hudson, New York, Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. attended Hudson Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, He began serving his country as a member of the United States Army on July 24, 1942, in Upton, New York; and

WHEREAS, On November 30, 1945, Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. was honorably discharged from Fort Dix, New York; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his exceptional service to his country including: Bronze Star Medal, American Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Service Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, World War II Victory Medal, World War II Service Lapel Button, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman Badge, Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar, and Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, After his service, Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. was employed as a Printer with the Universal Match Factory for over 40 years before he retired; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. was called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and always gave of himself unstintingly; he was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, JW Edmond Hose Fire Company for over 50 years, Hudson Lodge of Elks No. 787 for over 50 years, and Hudson American Legion Post No. 184; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout was his wife, Hazel, who felt privileged to have been a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Today, the bravery and willingness of Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. to fight for the lives of his fellow human beings, continues to inspire, and is deserving of the highest honor by all defenders of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their

lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries 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 honor Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Private First Class Edward J. Hofem, Jr.