

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Korean American community for dedicating a Memorial Monument that pays tribute to those who have become known to the world as 'Comfort Women'

WHEREAS, On June 16th, 2012, the Comfort Women Memorial Monument was established in Veterans Memorial at Eisenhower Park in Westbury, New York to honor and commemorate the hundreds of thousands of young women from Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Australia, the Netherlands and elsewhere who were coerced into the Comfort Women System; and

WHEREAS, The Memorial Monument, symbolizes the suffering endured by comfort women and serves as a reminder of the crime against humanity committed through the Comfort Women System; and

WHEREAS, The Government of Japan, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II, officially commissioned the acquisition of young women for the sole purpose of sexual servitude to its Imperial Armed Forces, who became known to the world as 'ianfu' or 'comfort women'; and

WHEREAS, The Comfort Women System of forced military prostitution by the Government of Japan, considered unprecedented in its cruelty and magnitude, included gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, The commemoration of a monument in Nassau County is emblematic of the inhumanity of generations ago, it is as well a reminder of the harsh realization that girls and women continue to be raped, brutalized, coerced, trafficked and even murdered well into the 21st Century; this resolution's true significance serves a larger purpose, a purpose for which every person of good conscience and honor, shares unity and passion: No matter where on this planet we reside we must protect our sisters and brothers and we must resolve to put an end to tyranny and terror; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Korean American community for dedicating a Memorial Monument that pays tribute to those who have become known to the world as 'comfort women'.