LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Roland V. Balch 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, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made signif-icant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Roland V. Balch 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 at a Ceremony on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2015, at the Temple Baptist Church, Halfmoon, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution 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, Roland V. Balch grew up in Syracuse, New York; after leaving high school, he worked at a foundry for a period of time; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, Roland V. Balch joined the United States Army, and trained as an Infantryman; after a year of preparation and service stateside, he was sent to the European Theatre of Operations, and arrived in Belgium in February of 1945; and

WHEREAS, Roland V. Balch was assigned to Company C, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and participated in fighting in Belgi-um, crossed the Rhine into Germany, and helped to hold the Bridge at Remagen; in early April his unit moved into central Germany and headed east toward Czechoslovakia and Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, In late April of 1945, Roland V. Balch was wounded in action as his unit moved to hold positions along the Germany-Czechoslovakia border; just days later, Germany surrendered and the World celebrated V-E Day; and

WHEREAS, Roland V. Balch departed for home on July 13, 1945, and arrived in New York Harbor with his comrades seven days later; upon his separation from Active Duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey, on April 14, 1946, he went to work for International Harvester; and

WHEREAS, During that time, Roland V. Balch went back to school and earned his high school diploma; in addition, he took some correspondence courses in Accounting, and then transferred to the Harvester plant in the Capital District, where he was employed until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Roland V. Balch earned several medals and accolades for his exceptional military service including the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and Combat Infantryman Badge, as well as the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, Roland V. Balch is a faithful member of Temple Baptist Church, Halfmoon, New York, where he serves as a favorite usher; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife, Kathy, and their two devoted sons, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Roland V. Balch demonstrated his love for his country and merits forev-ermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for

their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Roland V. Balch 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 Roland V. Balch.