

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the United Service Organizations (USO)

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to those historic organizations which serve as lasting reminders of our rich and unique past; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the USO; and

WHEREAS, For nearly 75 years, the USO has been the nation's leading organization to serve the men and women in the United States military, and their families, throughout their time in uniform; and

WHEREAS, From the moment the service member joins, through their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities, the USO is always by their side; and

WHEREAS, In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to unite several service associations into one organization to lift the morale of our military and support on the home front; the entities: the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board became the United Service Organizations (USO); and

WHEREAS, Today, the USO has continued to support our nation's military and their families for over seven decades as they defend our country and our freedom; their credo is to be always by their side; and

WHEREAS, The reach of the USO's centers extends to countries on every continent except Antarctica, and is operated by thousands of staff and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, The USO, a nonprofit organization, counts on celebrities to cheer the troops but also the organization addresses the changing needs of service members and their families, such as hiring motivational speakers to help military children build self-confidence and by offering career counseling for veterans; and

WHEREAS, In honor of its 75th Anniversary, the USO has named an Anniversary Honorary Committee, co-chaired by former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and including Condoleezza Rice; and

WHEREAS, There are four USO centers in New York State, and they are: USO Douglas MacArthur Center located in the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan; the USO General Colin L. Powell Center located at Fort Hamilton Army Post in Brooklyn; the USO T5/JFK airport located in Jamaica, New York; and the USO Fort Drum located at the Fort Drum military installation in Watertown, New York; and

WHEREAS, USO 5k Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016, starting at Pier 24 Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, The USO is a living tribute to our Nation's men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces, both home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate important places and historic events such as the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the United Service Organizations (USO) and its continuing mission to help those who are serving in the United States military both home and deployed overseas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Service Organizations (USO), and to honor all those who staff and volunteer at the USO's centers around the world; and be it further

RESOLVED That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the USO located in Manhattan.