

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Wilfred J. Brooks posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Rensselaer County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on August 8, 2016

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend these who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Wilfred J. Brooks posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Rensselaer County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony to be celebrated on Monday, August 8, 2016, at the Rensselaer County Office Building's Hall of Heroes, Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born August 11, 1942, in Troy, New York, Wilfred J. Brooks was one of three children born to Wilfred J. and Edith (Frink) Brooks; he attended Saint Jude's Elementary School and Catholic Central High School, in Troy, New York; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred J. Brooks served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1962 through 1965; his exceptional service earned him the Good Conduct Medal, and he was recognized as an accomplished Marksman (Rifle) and Sharpshooter (Rifle M-14); and

WHEREAS, After returning home from his assignment, Wilfred J. Brooks started working full-time at the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) as a bus driver, and part-time in Security; shortly after, he married and started raising his family in Watervliet, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Wilfred J. Brooks began working part-time for the Watervliet Police Department; seven years later, he moved to Troy, New York, and worked part-time for the North Greenbush Police Department; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Wilfred J. Brooks served as a member of the Rensselaer County Law Enforcement Association from 1977 through 2015, serving as President from 2010 until his death; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred J. Brooks was instrumental in securing two new memorial statues for members of the Rensselaer County Law Enforcement Association, and for the K9 police dogs who had passed away; the statues are located at the Rensselaer County Jail in Rensselaer, New York; and

WHEREAS, Before retiring in 2003 from CDTA, Wilfred J. Brooks was known for decorating his CDTA bus at Christmas time, and for playing Santa at Carroll Hill School in Troy, New York, as well as Papa's Restaurant in Watervliet; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred J. Brooks enjoyed travelling to Florida to play slot machines and visiting his friends; he was also known for his devotion to his family, his dog "Flash" and his many friends; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred J. Brooks died on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at the age of 72; and

WHEREAS, Wilfred J. Brooks was a loving husband to his wife, Jean, and former spouse, Sandra Flanigan, and a caring father to his three children, Christine Westcott, David and Lori, and his six grandchildren, Meghan, Michael, Kytair, Nikolas, Jenna and Tayah; 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, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their 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 Wilfred J. Brooks posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Rensselaer County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on August 8, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Wilfred J. Brooks.