

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Thomas L. Youngs upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the State of New York for his valiant service during World War II

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 from this Legislative Body; and

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

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Thomas L. Youngs, of Schoharie, New York, upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the State of New York for his valiant service during World War II; he was honored at the Air Force Association Dinner which was held on Friday, November 6, 2015, at the Albany Country Club, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, A hardworking farmer in the Town of Schoharie, New York, Thomas L. Youngs proudly served his country as a member of the 26th Infantry (Yankee) Division in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, On July 22, 1943, Thomas L. Youngs was inducted into the United States Army, and was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for both infantry and advanced artillery training; he then went on to train Army infantry officers in the art of direct artillery fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, On July 2, 1944, Thomas L. Youngs left the United States and flew to Scotland and Wales for more artillery training; he was then deployed to France with the 241st Field Artillery Unit where he would fight his way across the country to the city of Metz with General George S. Patton's 3rd Army; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1944, Thomas L. Youngs was reassigned to the 328th Infantry Regiment and quickly became involved in the historic Battle of the Bulge; his division moved north to Luxembourg from December 19-21, 1944, to take part in the Battle of the Ardennes breakthrough; and

WHEREAS, One day later, the division successfully thwarted an attack by German counterparts in Rambrouch and Grosbous; on Christmas day, Thomas L. Youngs and his fellow soldiers captured Arsdorf, but were then forced to withdraw in the face of German resistance; and

WHEREAS, After regrouping, the 328th Infantry Regiment crossed the Wiltz River on January 20, 1945; the heroic men continued their advance, taking Grumelscheid on January 21, 1945, and crossed the Clerf River three days later; and

WHEREAS, Thomas L. Youngs was reassigned to the XX Corps and was immediately moved to the East Bank of the Saar; the corps members maintained defensive positions in the Saarlautern area from January 29-March 6, 1945; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 1945, the XX Corps began their drive to the Rhine River; the men crossed the river at Oppenheim on March 25-26; and

WHEREAS, After this successful assignment, Thomas L. Youngs became a member of the XII Corps, where he took part in the house to house reduction of Hanau, Germany, on March 28, 1945, breaking out of the main river bridgehead and arriving at Fulda, Germany, on April 1, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Four days later, XII Corps helped procure Meiningen, Germany, and then moved into Austria and assisted in the capture of Linz on May 5, 1945; and

WHEREAS, The division then changed the direction of its advance and

moved into Czechoslovakia after the cease-fire order was received; one day later, along with the 11th Armored Division, the XII Corps liberated the Gusen Concentration Camp; and

WHEREAS, On Victory in Europe (V-E) Day, Thomas L. Youngs began to train for the invasion of Japan; in early 1946, at the young age of 23, he returned to New York State, a decorated soldier; and

WHEREAS, For his exemplary military service on two continents in two theaters of operations, Thomas L. Youngs was awarded numerous awards and accolades including the Bronze Star Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with 1 Silver Service Star for Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe and Rhineland Campaigns, WWII Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp, New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and Star; the French Legion of Honor Insignia of Chevalier, Expert Marksman Badge with Rifle (M-1) and Carbine Tabs, and Browning Automatic Rifle Tab, as well as the Honorable Service Lapel Pin with Lozenge; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Thomas L. Youngs returned to farming in his hometown, an occupation from which he retired at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his community, Thomas L. Youngs held the position of chairman of the Town of Schoharie Planning Board and was a vital participant of the Farm Bureau, the 4H Club, and several other agricultural committees; in addition, he was an esteemed member of the Veterans Association of the 26th Infantry and a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his loving wife of 56 years, Ella; and their four beloved children, Thomas E., Mary Ann, Frank A. and James A.; as well as their seven treasured grandchildren, Daniel, Levi, Travis, Matthew, Timothy, Patrick, and Shannon, 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, Thomas L. Youngs has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore, 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; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Thomas L. Youngs upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the State of New York for his valiant service during World War II; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas L. Youngs.