

BY: Senator KENNEDY

HONORING Specialist Nicholas James Stone 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 significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Specialist Nicholas James Stone 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

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, Born on December 15, 1986, Nicholas Stone has dreamt of serving his country since watching war documentaries in the sixth or seventh grade; after attending Hilbert College from 2005 to 2007, he enlisted in the United States Army on September 13, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Stone was deployed to Afghanistan as a mortarman in August of 2009, and moved around various posts before settling in Kuhak, more than 100 miles northwest of Kandahar, in early 2010; and

WHEREAS, Although mortar men generally stay in back of the action, Nicholas Stone always volunteered to go on foot patrols with his fellow soldiers as a member of the 82nd Airborne's 4th Brigade; and

WHEREAS, On May 21, 2010, Nicholas Stone lost his leg to a roadside bomb while walking down a rutted road in one of Afghanistan's roughest neighborhoods; facing a year of rehabilitation and an utterly altered future, this courageous soldier fought on; and

WHEREAS, Eleven months and 15 days after this roadside bomb planted by an Afghan rebel shattered his left leg, Nicholas Stone stood strong and proud in a White House waiting room on May 4, 2011, before running on his new leg as part of the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride program; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his valiant military service, Nicholas Stone received the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army

Commendation Medal, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism

Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and Parachutist Badge; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Kristin, who has showed him unwavering love and support and rejoices in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Nicholas Stone 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Specialist Nicholas James Stone 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 Specialist Nicholas James Stone.