

Senate Resolution No. 3073

BY: Senator TEDISCO

HONORING Donald E. Champagne posthumously 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 Donald E. Champagne posthumously 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 presented at the Saratoga County Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, in Ballston Spa, 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, Born on August 22, 1916, in Galway, New York, Donald E. Champagne graduated from Ballston Spa High School, during which time he worked several jobs to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, Donald E. Champagne valiantly served his country as a member of the United States Navy; enlisting on June 5, 1943, he was part of the 105th Naval Construction Battalion; and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 1944, this brave soldier began his service in New Guinea aboard the SS Sea Devil, where he remained until October 12, 1944; in January of 1945, he was authorized to wear the shoulder insignia for Seabees, and four months later, he was instrumental in the liberation of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service, Donald E. Champagne was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with one Bronze Star; he was honorably discharged on November 16, 1945, with the esteemed rank of Chief Carpenters Mate; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his military service, Donald E. Champagne owned and operated Don Champagne Builders until his death on March 25, 1972; he was a member and past Commander and President of the VFW Post No. 358; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this distinguished veteran was past President of the Lions Club of Ballston Spa and a member of the Ballston Spa Order of Masons; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Donald E. Champagne 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 Donald E. Champagne posthumously 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 the family of Donald E. Champagne.