

BY: Senator TEDISCO

HONORING John S. Edwards posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Schenectady County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on January 21, 2017

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 peace-time, deserve a special salute; 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John S. Edwards posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Schenectady County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony to be celebrated on Saturday, January 21, 2017, at the American Legion Post No. 1092, Niskayuna, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Schenectady County Honor-A-Veteran Committee is holding its inaugural awards ceremony to honor deceased Schenectady County Veterans who have served their country in time of conflict; and

WHEREAS, Born October 21, 1925, in Oakham, Massachusetts, John S. Edwards attended Barre High School in Barre, Massachusetts, and later earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nebraska and a Master of Arts from Boston University; and

WHEREAS, John S. Edwards faithfully served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War; his exceptional service earned him 40 United States and foreign decorations and awards including the Legion of Merit, the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, The son of a World War I veteran, John S. Edwards was a career military officer, retiring in 1972 with the rank of Colonel; his distinguished service included participation in eleven major battle campaigns, the 1952 Nevada Atomic Tests and a Pentagon posting in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, John S. Edwards was shot down on his 24th mission over Germany and was taken Prisoner of War (POW); in May of 1945, he was liberated by General George Patton's 14th Armored Division; through his POW experience, he forged his lasting faith, love of family, love of freedom, and respect for food; and

WHEREAS, Following his military career, John S. Edwards entered New York State service which included leadership roles as Executive Director for the New York State Interdepartmental Fuel and Energy Committee, and Director of Contingency Planning for the New York State Energy Office; he retired from New York State in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Forever active in veterans' support activities, John S. Edwards was the First Commander of the New York Chapter of Ex-POWs and served as its National Commander from 1989-1990; he was also Past President of the Northeast Chapter of the Korean War Veterans, National Committee Chairman to establish the National POW Museum at Andersonville, Georgia, and founder and Chapter President of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center in Saratoga Springs, New York; and

WHEREAS, John S. Edwards died on Monday, April 11, 2016, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, John S. Edwards was a loving and caring husband to his wife, Helga, a caring father to John S. Jr. and Laura, and a proud grandfather to his five grandchildren, Emma, Jurgen, Henry, Tristan and Hagan; 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 John S. Edwards posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by Schenectady County at its Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony on January 21, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of John S. Edwards.