

BY: Senator FLANAGAN

PAYING just tribute and remembering Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso of the New York National Guard who lost his life on Thursday, March 15, 2018, in Iraq

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Inherent Resolve will ensure our continued enjoyment of the freedoms we are blessed to have as American citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep remorse that this Legislative Body inscribes upon its records this memoriam for Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso of the New York National Guard whose selfless service on behalf of American values has led him to pay the ultimate sacrifice defending the United States and the ideals and principles upon which it was founded; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso, assigned to the 106th Rescue Wing, was stationed at F.S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach; and

WHEREAS, A true hero and patriot, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso was killed when his HH-60 Pave Hawk rescue helicopter crashed near the city of Qaim in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, The 106th Rescue Wing specializes in air, land and sea rescue of pilots and other military personnel and was operating in support of Operation Inherent Resolve; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso, a resident of Commack, New York, was an HH-60G special missions aviation flight engineer; he joined the 106th Rescue Wing in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso joined the Commack Volunteer Fire Department in 2000, prior to becoming a member of the New York City Fire Department in 2005, serving in both Ladder Company 113, Flatbush, Brooklyn, and Engine Company 302, Jamaica, Queens; he was promoted to Lieutenant in 2016, and was honored six times by the FDNY for bravery and life saving actions; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso was assigned to the Wing's 101st Rescue Squadron; he was previously deployed to Iraq as a fire protection specialist with the 106th Civil Engineering Squadron, twice to Afghanistan with the 101st, once to the Horn of Africa, and to Texas and the Caribbean for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso is survived by his wife, Carmella, and his two daughters, Eva and Mila; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the people of the State of New York, the members of this Legislative Body offer their most sincere heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved with great respect and reverent esteem to pay tribute to the heroic actions of Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso, knowing his memory will forever remain with his family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay just tribute and remember Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso of the New York National Guard who lost his life on Thursday, March 15, 2018, in Iraq; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso.