

BY: Senator JACOBS

COMMEMORATING the 40th Anniversary of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park and celebrating the opening of its 2019 season

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of this great Empire State is greatly enriched and reliably served by the good works and purposeful endeavors of those municipal facilities which remain committed to the educational and recreational needs of its citizens and visitors to the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park and to celebrate the opening of its 2019 season at an event on Saturday, March 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Visitors to the Buffalo Naval Park have the opportunity to explore our nation's military history with incredible tours of vessels, as well as fascinating exhibits and displays including historic documents, uniforms, military gear, photographs and much more; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park was formed and incorporated as an educational institution in the State of New York in 1976, from the New York State Board of Regents; one year later, the United States Navy donated the decommissioned destroyer USS THE SULLIVANS, which was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior in 1986, and the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Little Rock, to the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park opened its doors to the public for the first time in 1979; the park included a Visitors' Center which was constructed with Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency funding; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park acquired the World War II submarine USS Croaker (SSK-246); in 2008, this submarine was added to the National and New York State Registers of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, In that same year, with funding from the Empire State Development Corporation, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park expanded and created an outside exhibit area along with a new museum building and gift shop; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park obtained artifacts related to all branches of the Armed Forces; today, the collection includes three naval vessels, an X-Ron 1 Rotocycle Helicopter, an Army M-41 tank, a Marine M-84 Armored Personnel Carrier, a UH1 "Huey" Helicopter, an Air Force F-101F Voodoo Fighter

Interceptor Jet, a PTF-17 PT Boat, a Navy FJ-4B Fury Jet, and a P-39 Airacobra; and

WHEREAS, There are also extensive displays showcasing Marine Corps memorabilia, Polish Armed Forces, Vietnam Veterans, models of military vehicles, and Western New York Medal of Honor Recipients; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park is a destination much appreciated by the residents of the State of New York and visitors who seek the historical, cultural, and recreational resources of the area; it is a source of pride and community heritage to all the people of Buffalo; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park and to celebrate the opening of its 2019 season; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park.