

BY: Senator SANDERS

COMMENDING Major Sharon Sweeting Lindsey upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, The unity of our State and Nation is built upon the compassion of individuals such as Major Sharon Sweeting Lindsey who uphold the values of community life and who, through their great actions, epitomize the best of humanity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Major Sharon Sweeting Lindsey upon the occasion of her 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, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey is a magna cum laude graduate of Brooklyn College, where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Education, a Master's degree in Nutrition and an advanced degree in Supervision and Administration; and

WHEREAS, A registered, certified and licensed dietitian in New York and Texas, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey has been an adjunct professor at LaGuardia Community College for the past 32 years; furthermore, for 10 years, she was an Administrative Director of the NYS Department of Education where she monitored the NYC Board of Education private and parochial schools' feeding program; and

WHEREAS, A truly remarkable woman, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey enlisted in the United States Army Reserve as Food Service Specialist, retiring at the esteemed rank of Major after 26 years of dedicated service to her country; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey became the Deputy Executive Director for Nutritional Services at the New York City Department of Corrections, where she oversaw the feeding of 20,000 men and women and 10,000 officers and civilians; she retired in 2004; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to helping those in need, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey founded Taurus Associates Inc., a food service consultant organization; in 2008, she initiated the J-CAPS Vets, and two years later she founded Vets Inc., during which time she was named Queens New Yorker of the Week; and

WHEREAS, That same year, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey also founded Honor House, a 10-bed residential facility for Veterans, as well as a pantry

and soup kitchen, a NYC official SNAP enrollment site and NYC DOH Blood Pressure monitoring location; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, the food pantry was expanded to the Locust Manor Senior Citizen Residence and Vets Inc. was awarded a state contract at Reality House, a veteran's residential facility; under the able leadership of Sharon Sweeting Lindsey, this vital organization soon grew to include pantries at American Legion Post No. 483 and VFW Post No. 5298; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to her community, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey is proud to provide food services to countless families each week at five locations, as well as employment for 20 persons and certified community service opportunities for 20 youths; and

WHEREAS, As founder of the Annual Pantry in the Park event, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey has distributed more than 1,000 food packages to the community and in 2017, she fed over 2,000 children at the Universoul Circus; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey was elected as Vice Commander of the American Legion Post No. 483 and Chair of the Women's Auxiliary; additionally, she was elected to the Chairmanship of the Senator Leroy Comrie Veterans Committee; she is also a member of MILEVA and the NABMW; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey was selected as Chairman of the QBP Veteran and Seniors Committee; she was also sworn into the Queens District Attorney Veterans Committee and inducted into membership of Community Board 12; and

WHEREAS, A woman of great faith, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey is a 37-year member of Allen AME Cathedral where she is active in the Security Ministry, and co-founder of Veteran Sunday, an annual event in which the Veterans from New York and New Jersey come together to worship and celebrate their Veteran heritage; and

WHEREAS, The proud recipient of numerous governmental and community-based awards and accolades, Sharon Sweeting Lindsey was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame in 2011; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her daughter, the late Crystal Arnetta, with her throughout have been her sons, Mitchell Darnell and James Masada, as well as 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Sharon Sweeting Lindsey has displayed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Major Sharon Sweeting Lindsey upon the occasion of her 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 Major Sharon Sweeting Lindsey.