

Senate Resolution No. 1744

BY: Senator RATH

HONORING Clarence Rotary Club Foundation upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Special Recognition Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 3, 2022

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in acknowledging outstanding organizations which distinguish themselves in serving the community and its residents, and which warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Clarence Rotary Club Foundation upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Special Recognition Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its 49th Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at Samuel's Grande Manor in Clarence, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Clarence Rotary Club Foundation is receiving this prestigious award for designing and installing a Veterans' Memorial at the Clarence Main Street Town Park which was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021, to the millions of United States Military Veterans who have served and continue to serve their country; and

WHEREAS, The original memorial design includes five granite forever stone panels to represent each branch of the military; the Veterans' Honor Wall will have the following information for their listing: name, military branch and years served; and

WHEREAS, As of today, over 550 Veterans are recognized on the Honor Walls and thousands of people have paid respect to those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom; veteran names will be continually added to the Memorial every spring and fall; and

WHEREAS, The idea for the Clarence Veterans' Memorial started soon after the recent loss of Captain Andrew D. Byers, a long-time Clarence resident, honor student and star athlete; after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 2008, and serving over eight years with several overseas trips with the United States Armed Forces, Captain Byers was killed in action in Afghanistan, while performing rescue efforts to save his platoon from enemy fire in November of 2016; and

WHEREAS, After his funeral services, Captain Andrew D. Byers' twin sister, Lauren, commented how there was no place to go to honor and remember the names of the soldiers of Clarence, New York; henceforth, the Clarence Rotary Foundation took action and created a permanent gathering place where individuals can pay tribute to Clarence residents, relatives, friends, and fellow Americans for their tremendous sacrifices made for our Nation and for the benefit of all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are

brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Clarence Rotary Club Foundation upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Special Recognition Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 3, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Clarence Rotary Club Foundation.