

**BY:** Senator JORDAN

**COMMENDING** Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

**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 peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be presented at a Columbia County Honor a Veteran Ceremony; 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,** Arnold T. Anderson, Sr., known to his friends and family as Arnie, was born on February 7, 1950, to Albert and Elizabeth Anderson in Norwich, New York; raised in Amenia, New York, he graduated from Webatuck Central School, and later, attended Columbia-Green Community College where he earned an associate's degree in Business Administration in 1996; and

**WHEREAS,** After enlisting in the United States Army on December 28, 1968, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. successfully completed basic training, and additional training for eight weeks as a heavy vehicle driver; and

**WHEREAS,** Specialist 4 Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. proudly served his country as a heavy vehicle driver from May 23, 1969, to April 29, 1970, during the Vietnam War; he was then assigned to his new duty station at the Military Academy at West Point on December 23, 1971, where he served out his enlistment; and

**WHEREAS,** Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. next served in the reserves for the USAR Control Group, USAAC, St. Louis, Missouri, for the remainder of his military commitment; and

**WHEREAS,** For his courageous service during the Vietnam War, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal w/1960 Device, and the National Defense Service Medal; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon the completion of his military service, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. returned to his home town and married the former Helen Ploof on April 10, 1971, in Copake, New York; the couple resided in Ancramdale, New York, where together, they raised three children; and

**WHEREAS,** Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. was an owner/operator cross-country truck driver before he officially retired after 20 years of work; and

**WHEREAS,** Dedicated to his community and fellow veterans, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. was a member of the Claussou-Raught Community Rescue Squad, the Columbia County WWII Armed Services Committee, Honor A Vet Committee, Vietnam Veteran's Association, Northeast USA Vietnam Veteran's Reunion Committee, DAV Post No. 194, American Legion Post No. 178, Copake VFW Post No. 7955, Rip Van Winkle Country Council VFW, and District 3 VFW; and

**WHEREAS,** Through these important veterans' organizations, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the effects of Agent Orange on those who served in Southeast Asia; and

**WHEREAS,** Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. died on March 26, 2020, at the age of 70; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his wife, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. is survived by his two daughters, Melissa and BobbieJo; one son, Arnold; and 10 grandchildren, as well as numerous friends who will long cherish his memory; 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 his patriotism both at home and abroad, Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his 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 commend Arnold T. Anderson, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of his 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 the family of Arnold T. Anderson, Sr.