

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary of affiliation with The Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA)

WHEREAS, New York State's commitment to the military and its veterans is unparalleled; indeed, its history of support for military service dates from the very founding of our proud state militia and its legendary role in the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this Legislative Body acknowledges the significant milestones of those organizations who, in the finest traditions of the military, celebrate the men and women of the uniformed services of our country by striving to memorialize those veterans who have passed on, honoring those currently serving and teaching the next generation the value and high cost of freedom; and

WHEREAS, In view of this long-standing tradition of support for our military, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary as an affiliate of MOAA to be celebrated on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, in Rome, New York, and its 50 years of continuous and distinguished service to the Greater Rome-Utica community; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter is a 501c19 veterans' organization comprised of current, former and retired commissioned and warrant officers of the eight branches of the military services whose mission is to provide nonpartisan advocacy for legislation pertaining to all military members regardless of rank or branch of service whether on Active Duty, in the Reserves or in the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter has demonstrated expertise not only in advocacy on the local, state and national levels but also in fundraising to provide support to local youth groups and other veteran and civic organizations whose mission is to foster the development of leadership skills, community involvement and patriotism among our future leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter has for each of the past 10 years organized and coordinated Wreaths Across America in Rome, New York, ceremonies at six Rome Area cemeteries; this celebration features the placement of Memory Wreaths on the graves of deceased military veterans by school age children and their families and highlights the Wreaths Across America mission of "REMEMBER-HONOR-TEACH"--remember the fallen, honor those now serving and their families and teach the value of freedom to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter's expertise in successfully presenting the Wreaths Across America program has twice been chronicled in **Military Officer** magazine, the national monthly publication of MOAA; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter has a long-standing record of providing financial support to Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (J ROTC) units at Rome Free Academy in Rome, T.R. Proctor and Notre Dame High Schools in Utica and to the National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) at Central Valley Academy in Ilion; this support is intended to supplement training and travel budgets to ensure that each unit member has access to all opportunities offered by their programs; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter conducts a volunteer mission Monday through Friday of each week at the Donald J. Mitchell Outpatient VA Clinic at Griffiss Business and Industrial Park; volunteers introduce and instruct veterans visiting the clinic on the use of "MyHealtheVet", a computer based program which allows the veteran to participate in his or her health care in managing appointments, monitoring prescription orders, communicating with medical staff via secure email and, among other things, accessing a variety of health information; this volunteer effort is part of the "Red Coat Ambassador" program of the Syracuse VA Center where the Chapter volunteers welcome the veterans to the Clinic, answer questions and assist with any concern; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter has won accolades from MOAA for its performance as an affiliate; it is a perennial winner of the Levels of Excellence Award for outstanding advocacy and community service; this award places the Chapter among the very top performing affiliates in the country; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter supports the Advanced Course in Engineering (ACE Course) conducted annually by the Air Force Research Laboratory at Griffiss Park; ACE is a highly competitive summer internship program attended by top-notch American and international science and engineering students destined for high level careers in the military, government and industry; the Chapter hosts a welcoming social event, "The Burger Burn", where the ACE students can socialize with veterans as well as invited JROTC students with an interest in pursuing scientific studies and careers; and

WHEREAS, Veterans' organizations like The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of young people to realize their role as community leaders and ensuring their future success; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter has clearly had an enduring impact on the community, its veterans and its youth and accordingly merits recognition and applause for its impressive dedication to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of the members of The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter who, true to their motto, "Never Stop Serving" in support of our State and our Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary of affiliation with The Military Officers' Association of America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Greater Rome-Utica Chapter-- Military Officers' Association of America.