

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING James Ray upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 37 years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force

WHEREAS, Individuals who dedicate their lives to military service merit the commendation and applause of all citizens for their commitment to the preservation of American freedom; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate James Ray upon the occasion of his retirement more than 37 years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force, to be celebrated with a Party in his honor on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, New York; and

WHEREAS, James Ray is retiring after more than 15 years of dedicated Civilian Federal Service and more than 22 years of honorable active duty service as a member of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Born in Bradford, Pennsylvania, James Ray graduated from Bradford Area High School; he went on to attend the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford Campus; and

WHEREAS, James Ray began his illustrious military career with the United States Air Force in November of 1982; after completing basic training, he attended technical training at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, before his first official assignment at Wheeler Air Force Base in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, While stationed in Hawaii, James Ray returned to Pennsylvania to marry the love of his life, Denai; the couple spend three wonderful years together in Hawaii before he was transferred to Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire, followed by Griffiss Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, After the closing of Griffiss Air Force Base, James Ray enjoyed numerous Temporary Duty Assignments in various locations across the globe during his military career, but in 2005, he and Denai decided to retire from active duty and call Rome home; and

WHEREAS, James Ray worked as a substitute teacher in several local schools, including Utica, New Hartford, Holland Patent, Oriskany, and Rome; he covered classes from Kindergarten to AP Physics, a true test of his academic acumen; and

WHEREAS, After taking a position with the Air Force Research

Laboratory in Rome, James Ray was requested to fill the position of Commander's Support Staff Superintendent, where he continued to excel, ensuring all military personnel needs were met; and

WHEREAS, James Ray climbed the ranks to become a Protocol Officer; in this capacity he was tasked with assembling a team to assist with visits from the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), a panel of subject matter experts who are sent to review the laboratory's programs to ensure compliance and relevance; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, James Ray led the Information Directorate through numerous high level distinguished visitors, including two from the Secretary of the Air Force, two Under Secretary of the Air Force, members of Congress, and several high-ranking international visitors; and

WHEREAS, With a vast knowledge of the local area and the significant contacts he has made throughout his time at the Information Directorate, James Ray has been instrumental in recognizing the type of support base, civic, county, industry and academic organizations can provide, and which individuals can do what has proven vital numerous times throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, he has an effective and supportive rapport with local politicians, providing an open-door policy between the Directorate and their offices; and

WHEREAS, As the Directorate's representative on the Rome Chamber of Commerce Board, James Ray keeps the community abreast of happenings within the laboratory and the Air Force while at the same time keeping the laboratory leadership on community events; and

WHEREAS, Striving to excel, James Ray pursued a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership which he completed part time in just under three years; during this time, he was also the head diving coach at Hamilton College where he ran a diving club for competitive divers from the local area; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to serving his country, James Ray has inspired countless military personnel, truly earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Denai, and their two children, Joshua and Erin, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism, James Ray has 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 congratulate James Ray upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 37 years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James Ray.