

Senate Resolution No. 2906

BY: Senator JORDAN

COMMENDING Sergeant William H. Hoffay 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 Sergeant William H. Hoffay 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; he will be presented with this prestigious award at the Rensselaer County Hometown Heroes Dinner on Friday, October 28, 2022; 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, William H. Hoffay joined the United States Navy Reserve on November 30, 1964, completing two weeks of basic training in April of 1965, at the Great Lakes Training Facility in Illinois; later, he joined the active-duty Army, and was sent to Fort Dix, New Jersey for training; and

WHEREAS, After completing basic training with distinction, William H. Hoffay was promoted to Private E-2 with the top ten percent of his class on January 13, 1966; he was then sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia for nine weeks of Advanced Infantry Training before his last transfer to Fort Benning, Georgia for Airborne School which he completed on April 21, 1966; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Private William H. Hoffay deployed to Ben Hoa, Vietnam on May 18, 1966, and was assigned to E Troop, 17th Cavalry, 173rd; after a week of rigorous jungle training, he joined his unit in the field where the mission included grueling day and night patrols and frequent contact with the enemy; and

WHEREAS, On April 3, 1967, while on Operation Junction City near the Cambodian border, Specialist Four (SP 4) William H. Hoffay was wounded in action when his unit was ambushed; he returned to the United States at the end of April 1967, and was assigned to North Carolina B Troop, 1st Platoon of the 17th Cavalry, 82nd, Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, In late July and early in August of 1967, SP 4 William H. Hoffay was sent to participate in Task Force Detroit; in November of that same year, he was directed to Washington DC to stand by and support

during the Peace March Demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, On January 23, 1968, Sergeant William H. Hoffay, along with the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne, was put on full alert due to the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea -- this Operation was then canceled upon the start of the Tet Offensive, which began on January 29, 1968; within two weeks the entire 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne arrived in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant William H. Hoffay, an E-5 at that time, commanded a fire team in the third platoon of B Troop, 17th Cavalry, 82nd Airborne; this mission and operation parallels his tour of duty with 173rd Airborne; in the interim, he was promoted to Scout Section Leader of the Third Platoon; and

WHEREAS, Upon his honorable discharge from the United States Army on October 25, 1968, William H. Hoffay returned to Averill Park, New York, where he worked in his family's construction business for a number of years before taking over full operation of Hoffay Farms in 1981; and

WHEREAS, William H. Hoffay's sense of service and community never left him; he gave tirelessly of his time and energies to countless local community and veteran organizations for many years, and was the driving force behind the beautiful Sand Lake Veterans Memorial located on Route 43 in the Town of Sand Lake; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during the Vietnam War, Sergeant William H. Hoffay earned numerous military decorations, including: the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service; two Army Commendation Medals for Valor and two for Meritorious Service; the Purple Heart Medal (Combat wounded in Vietnam); the Presidential, Valorous and Meritorious Unit Citations; the Combat Infantry and Parachute Badges, New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and New York State Conspicuous Star; 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 risked their lives for their beloved Nation; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Sergeant William H. Hoffay 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 Sergeant William H. Hoffay 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 Sergeant William H. Hoffay.