

Senate Resolution No. 2907

BY: Senator JORDAN

COMMENDING William A. Hanson 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 William A. Hanson 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

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, Born on August 9, 1941, to Joseph and Mary Grace (Allinger) Hanson, in Old Chatham, New York, William A. Hanson attended Canaan Elementary School and Chatham High School, graduating in 1959; and

WHEREAS, William A. Hanson began his illustrious military service with the United States Air Force on October 17, 1961, in Albany, New York, as a 2nd Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, William A. Hanson received additional training at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi as an Apprentice Aircraft Control and Warning Operator; and

WHEREAS, Assigned to 756 Radar Squadron (Air Defense Command) and given duties to detect vessels, planes and vehicles before they entered an area of operations, Airman 2nd Class William A. Hanson directed aircraft strikes and surveillance, and served as a radar operator overseas at the Alacante Air Station in Spain for 11 months during the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, A truly remarkable soldier, Airman 2nd Class William A. Hanson courageously served with Special Operations Ground Based of the 343 Combat Special Tactics Squadron despite extremely high tensions as a result of the Cuban Missile Crisis; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service, Airman 2nd Class William A. Hanson was awarded the Air Force Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, William A. Hanson married Judith Hatch on June 13, 1970, in Spencertown, New York, and they raised three loving children, Elizabeth,

James and Kenneth; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service, William A. Hanson returned to New York to be with his family; he was a self-employed electrician, owning and operating his own business, Canaan Electric; he later served as Canaan Highway Superintendent and Electrical Inspector for Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, William A. Hanson served for 50 years as a Fire Chief at Canaan Fire Company and was the co-founder of the non-profit scholarship Power the Way for Education; and

WHEREAS, William A. Hanson died on December 15, 2018, in Canaan, New York and is buried in St. James Cemetery in Ghent, New York; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, William A. Hanson 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 William A. Hanson 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 William A. Hanson.