

BY: M. of A. Simpson

COMMENDING Sergeant Howard Richard Belden
posthumously upon the occasion of his designation
for special recognition by the Reverend Francis A.
Kelley Society of Saint Joseph's Church on April 19,
2022

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

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 Howard Richard Belden posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Reverend Francis A. Kelley Society of Saint Joseph's Church to be celebrated at a tribute held in his honor on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at the Korean War Memorial in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born to the late James and Ester Belden on February 10, 1931, Sergeant Howard R. Belden enlisted in the United States Army in 1948, and proudly served his country as a rifleman in the Security Platoon, Headquarters Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, On December 1, 1950, while defending his position near Haggaru, North Korea during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, Sergeant Howard R. Belden was shot in the back by enemy forces and placed in a truck for evacuation; and

WHEREAS, During this time, the convoy was ambushed by enemy forces and Sergeant Howard R. Belden was reported as Missing in Action (MIA), and was officially Presumed Dead on December 31, 1953; and

WHEREAS, Through his exceptional fortitude and valiant fighting spirit on that fateful day, Sergeant Howard R. Belden upheld the highest traditions of the United States Army, gallantly giving his life for his country and serving as an inspiration to all; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2018, after a summit meeting between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, 55 boxes containing the remains of United States servicemen were turned over to the United States government and sent to Hawaii for DNA and other analysis; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Howard R. Belden's family was notified of his identification on October 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, A resident of the Town of Hague, New York, Sergeant Howard R. Belden will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors during the second week of May 2022; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during the Korean War, Sergeant Howard R. Belden was awarded the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal; 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 Howard Richard Belden posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Reverend Francis A. Kelley Society of Saint Joseph's Church on April 19, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sergeant Howard Richard Belden.