

Assembly Resolution No. 761

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

HONORING Jim Furgal upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Lake Delta Kiwanis Club on May 18, 2022

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 honor Jim Furgal upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Lake Delta Kiwanis Club to be celebrated on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Delta Lake Inn, Rome, New York; and

WHEREAS, Jim Furgal joined the United States Army in 1968, and just one year later, became the second youngest Staff Sergeant in Army history; he went on to spend 17 months applying Agent Orange along the Korean Demilitarized Zone during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, After serving in the Active Reserves as a Drill Instructor from 1971 to 1975, Jim Furgal testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Agent Orange use in Korea in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, Jim Furgal has given tirelessly of his time and energies as a Volunteer Veterans Service Officer, helping countless veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his fellow veterans, Jim Furgal has assisted more than 120 veterans get enrolled in VA healthcare, helped over 300 veterans with filing their claims for disability compensation and advised over 100 veterans with appeals after their claims were denied; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he assisted more than 40 widows with claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensations; and

WHEREAS, Jim Furgal is also active in the New York State Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. where he has been instrumental in helping secure and restore the UH-1 Huey Helicopter as well as acquiring the Kneeling Soldier Statue on display at the Memorial site; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, this extraordinary man co-authored the book, **Last Three Soldiers Standing**, the story of Agent Orange use in Korea; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous and dedicated service to his country, Jim Furgal was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea) and the Marksmanship Medal (M-14); 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, Jim Furgal demonstrates his love for his country and merits forevermore, the highest respect of this 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 honor Jim Furgal upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Lake Delta Kiwanis Club on May 18, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jim Furgal.