

Assembly Resolution No. 769

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

COMMENDING David R. Riley Sr. upon the occasion of his designation as the New York State American Legion Department Commander

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those patriotic organizations and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend David R. Riley Sr. upon the occasion of his designation as the New York State American Legion Department Commander, celebrated on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at the American Legion Henry P. Smith Post No. 24, Rome, New York; and

WHEREAS, David R. Riley Sr. is the third Oneida County resident to become State Commander in the Legion's 100-year history; he will officially begin his one-year term in this most esteemed position when he is sworn in at the 104th Annual American Legion Department of New York Convention on Saturday, July 16, 2022, in Binghamton, New York; and

WHEREAS, David R. Riley Sr. proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force from 1978 to 1982; he completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and security police training at both Lackland and Camp Bullis, Texas, before his assignment to K.1. Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan as part of the security police force; and

WHEREAS, A life member of The American Legion, David R. Riley Sr. joined Utica Post No. 229 in 1995 and transferred in 2000 to Rome's Henry P. Smith Post No. 24, where he served as Commander from 2004 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, In addition to many other positions at the post level, David R. Riley Sr. was the 2012-13 Oneida County Commander; he also served on several committees on the county level and was appointed Vice Commander at the district level; and

WHEREAS, On the State level, David R. Riley Sr. has been an instructor and vice dean of Legion College of New York, and served four years as Membership chairman as well as three years as Law and Order chairman; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, on the national level, he was a facilitator at American Legion College in 2012, and currently serves as a consultant on the Membership and Post Activities Committee; and

WHEREAS, Employed by the State Department of Correctional Services

(NYSDOCS), David R. Riley Sr. is active in numerous veteran's circles; he is Secretary/Treasurer of the Rome Memorial Day Association and Secretary for the Rome Veteran's Council; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to local veterans and the community-at-large, David R. Riley Sr. is a member of the VFW Auxiliary, DAV, American Legion College of New York and National American Legion College Alumni Associations, the Stanwix Veteran Men's Club, Frank J. Steczko Post PAV, Forty & Eight Voiture Locale No. 1220, Rome Polish Home, Oneida County Past County Commanders Club, Smith Post No. 24 Past Post Commanders Club, National American Legion Press Association, and the NYSDOCS Emerald Society Mid-State Chapter; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, the former Laurie Evans, and their four children, David Jr., Lindsay, Katelyn and Kurt, as well as two grandsons, Chase and Apollo, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, The success of the American Legion is in direct correlation to the tireless efforts of David R. Riley Sr., whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by David R. Riley Sr. over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend David R. Riley Sr. upon the occasion of his designation as the New York State American Legion Department Commander; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to David R. Riley Sr.