

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Alois A. Matousek 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 Alois A. Matousek 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, to be presented at the Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in Ballston Spa, New York; 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 January 27, 1930, Alois A. Matousek was raised in Schenectady, New York by his parents, Louis and Lillian Matousek; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in 1947, Alois A. Matousek met and married the love of his life, Arline Strong, and worked for the Schenectady Varnish Company; and

WHEREAS, Entering the United States Army on January 15, 1953, Alois A. Matousek was a member of the Company B, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; stationed at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada, he took part in the atomic maneuvers held there; and

WHEREAS, Courageously serving his country to prevent disaster, Alois A. Matousek's unit was tasked with participation onsite in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device; this involved enduring an atomic blast from a distance and conducting maneuvers into "Ground Zero" of the blast area after the detonation; and

WHEREAS, After becoming exposed to radiation, Alois A. Matousek would later endure Lymphoma; along with his fellow soldiers, he was covered under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, legislation which served as an example to future exposure related benefits for Veterans and families; and

WHEREAS, As a testament to his valiant service, Alois A. Matousek was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon his honorable discharge from the rank of Corporal on January 14, 1955, Alois A. Matousek then went on to serve 8 years in the New York National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Continuing his devoted work ethic, Alois A. Matousek returned to the Schenectady Varnish Company and retired after 44 years as the Manager of Safety, Security, and Fire protection for all the plants; he served as the Town of Edinburg Town Assessor for 29 years, as well as the Saratoga County Committee Man for several years; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Alois A. Matousek was a member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, working his way up to be Grand Master of New York State; he was also a trustee for the United Methodist Church in Edinburg; and

WHEREAS, Alois A. Matousek died on January 14, 2022, at the age of 91 years old; 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 gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Alois A. Matousek 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 Alois A. Matousek 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 Alois A. Matousek.