

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Clifford J. Lange 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 Clifford J. Lange 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, Clifford J. Lange was born on June 20, 1941 in Troy, New York to Donna and Clifford Lange; he graduated from Albany High School before being recruited to serve the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Entering into the United States Marine Corp on July 14, 1960, Clifford J. Lange served as an Aviation Photo Technician with the Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 2(VMCJ-2), 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing; and

WHEREAS, VMCJ-2 made its mark on history by becoming the first Marine unit to be awarded a Navy Unit Commendation in peacetime for its electronic and photo reconnaissance missions tracking the buildup of Soviet supplied military capabilities in communist Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis; as part of this mission, Clifford J. Lange would often photograph Soviet missiles in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during the Cold War, Clifford J. Lange rose to the rank of Lance Corporal and was awarded the Naval Unit Commendation, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Marine Corp Expeditionary Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service on July 13, 1964, Clifford J. Lange was an insurance agent for Prudential Insurance for 38 years, retiring in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Clifford J. Lange was married to the love of his life, Diane, for 51 years, together they had one son James and made a lifetime of memories which will forever be cherished; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Clifford J. Lange was a devoted

member of the Town of Malta Republican Committee, serving on the Planning Boards and as Malta Town Councilman for 26 years, was a member of the Ballston Spa Lions Club, Franklin Masonic Lodge 22, the Malta Rotary Club, and enjoyed taking photos for the Malta Ridge Volunteer Fire Department; he was also a member of the Malta Ridge Methodist Church assisting every year with their Chicken Barbeque; and

WHEREAS, Clifford J. Lange died on December 30, 2021, at the age of 80; he leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; 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, Clifford J. Lange 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 Clifford J. Lange 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 Clifford J. Lange.