

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Richard Traeger 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 esteemed Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Richard Traeger 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, on Tuesday, October 17, 2023; 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, Richard Traeger was born on February 8, 1940, in Albany, New York to Clarence and Mildred; he graduated from Albany High School in 1959; and

WHEREAS, He entered the U.S. Air Force on January 5, 1960, serving as a Personal Equipment Specialist in the 814th Combat Support Group, 99th Bombardment Wing; Richard Traeger was tasked with providing and keeping available necessary supplies for the operation of the Base; and

WHEREAS, The 99th Bomb Wing's mission, as part of the Strategic Air Command, was to keep bombers and tankers on ground alert at all times and armed with nuclear weapons that could be deployed at a moment's notice 24 hours a day; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during the Vietnam War, Richard Traeger was awarded the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Richard Traeger was honorably discharged from military service on December 20, 1963; and

WHEREAS, After his dedicated service, Richard Traeger married his cherished wife, Judith, with whom he had three beloved children; and

WHEREAS, Richard Traeger worked for Niagara Mohawk Power Company for over 30 years as a Gas Mechanic; he also enjoyed hunting, and was a longtime member of the Hadley Hunting Club; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Richard Traeger was a member of the Rotterdam Elks, The Hadley American Legion, and sat on the Town of Day planning board for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Richard Traeger died on December 16, 2022, at the age of 82; 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, Richard Traeger 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 Richard Traeger 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 Richard Traeger.