

BY: Senator MARTINS

COMMENDING Honor Flight Long Island upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Front Runner Award by the Tribute and Honor Foundation on February 3, 2024

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces, who served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Honor Flight Long Island upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Front Runner Award by the Tribute and Honor Foundation, to be celebrated at its 3rd Annual Phoenix Rising Awards ceremony on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Crescent Beach Club in Bayville, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Tribute and Honor Foundation exists to honor, pay tribute, and celebrate our veterans and the veteran community, while also seeking out opportunities to support our heroes and their families; and

WHEREAS, The Front Runner Award is presented to an organization that has made a major impact by being the "front runner" in the support of veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Honor Flight Long Island's mission is to sponsor Long Island veterans with a complimentary trip to view their memorials in Washington, D.C.; since its inception, the Honor Flight Network has supported the veteran community by flying more than 250,000 veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War and critically ill veterans of any service era to see their memorials at our Nation's Capital; and

WHEREAS, Receiving this honorable award on behalf of the foundation will be Honor Flight Long Island's President, Bill Jones, Vice President, Roger Kilfoil, and the organization's board; 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 its patriotism both at home and abroad, Honor Flight Long Island demonstrates its appreciation and reverence for

this country's veterans 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 commend Honor Flight Long Island upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Front Runner Award by the Tribute and Honor Foundation on February 3, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Honor Flight Long Island and the organization's President, Bill Jones, Vice President, Roger Kilfoil, and the members of the board.