

BY: Senator HINCHEY

COMMENDING James A. Herring 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 James A. Herring 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 honored on Monday, April 22, 2024, by the Columbia County VSA at their Honor a Vet Program where his daughter, Vivian Herring, will be presented with a Liberty Medal; 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 April 26, 1931, in Clinton, North Carolina, James A. Herring was raised by Clarence and Naomi Herring; in June of 1949, he graduated from high school in Roseboro, New York and worked as a bridge foreman prior to his military service; and

WHEREAS, On May 22, 1951, James A. Herring was induced into the United States Army at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; after his initial training, he received the title Private First-Class and was assigned to Headquarters & Service Company, 34th Engineering C Battalion in Fort Lewis, Washington, with an (MOS1729) Antitank mine platoon; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service, James A. Herring was honorably discharged on May 21, 1953, at Reception Center in Fort Lewis, Washington; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning home, James A. Herring met and married Mary A. Davis in Clinton, North Carolina in 1953; moving to Catskill, New York, he was employed in the area as the first Black barber at Moses Taylor Barber Shop and also worked as a driver/laborer for the New York State Department of Transportation during his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, James A. Herring, known by his friends as Watash, was a lifetime member of the Hudson Shiloh Baptist Church, serving on the Senior Usher Board, Trustee Ministry, Men's Network, and Men's Choir; he also served as a lifetime member of the masonic Mt. Zion Lodge No. 46, where he held a myriad of roles; and

WHEREAS, James A. Herring died on October 4, 2022, at the age of 91;

he was buried amidst his loved ones in Cedar Park Cemetery, Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, James A. Herring is survived by three daughters, Vivian, Jackie, and Latonia, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; sadly, he was predeceased by his wife, Mary, and daughter, Carolyn; 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, James A. Herring 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 James A. Herring 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 James A. Herring.