

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 15th Anniversary of Feed Our Vets of Utica, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the Veterans of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 15th Anniversary Feed Our Vets of Utica, New York, to be celebrated with an Open House and Barbecue on Wednesday, May 22, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in February 2009, Feed Our Vets has provided free food assistance to more than 52,000 Veterans and their family members, distributing 3,850,000 pounds of food; and

WHEREAS, Feed Our Vets is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help Veterans in the United States, as well as their spouses, and children, whose circumstances have left them on the battlefield of hunger, and to involve the public in fighting Veteran hunger; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization achieves its mission through: community food pantries which provide regular, free food distributions to Veterans and their families; Walmart gift card program for food purchase; distribution of related goods and services; and public education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, More than 130,000 Veterans are homeless and hungry on any given night in America; one in three homeless people in America is a U.S. Military Veteran, and nearly four million Veterans and their families don't have enough to eat during the year; Feed Our Vets provides food for Veterans and active-duty members in 39 states; and

WHEREAS, Feed Our Vets solution is to help feed Veterans and Military members in cities and towns across the United States; while a brick-mortar pantry in every state is impossible because of significant operating costs, its Walmart gift card program covers states and communities who can't support a pantry; and

WHEREAS, With low overhead, Feed Our Vets is able to assist more hungry families and put more food on their tables; in 2022, 94% of its expenditures went right back to Veterans and active-duty members in need; 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; it our duty to give back to these men and women who have given so

much for our country; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of Feed Our Vets of Utica, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Feed Our Vets of Utica, New York.