

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Nataleno J. Reo 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 Nataleno J. Reo 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 celebrated at the Saratoga County Honor our Deceased Veteran Ceremony on Tuesday, December 17, 2023 in Ballston Spa, New York; 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, Nataleno "Ned" Reo was born on December 25, 1930 in Waterford, New York, to Pasquale and Angelina (Zacarola) Reo, who both immigrated to the United States from Italy; he graduated from Waterford High School in 1948; and

WHEREAS, After joining the United States Marine Corps on October 19, 1950, Ned J. Reo proudly served with the 1st Marine Division in Korea; he fought in the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, later famously known as the "Frozen Chosin," and the Battle of Hwacheon (Hill 902); and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during the Korean War, Ned J. Reo was awarded the Purple Heart with Gold Star for wounds he received on March 23, 1951 and April 24, 1951 in combat; he was also awarded the Korean Service Medal with Bronze Campaign Star, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Rifle Marksman Badge, and the United Nations Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service, Ned J. Reo worked for 38 years for General Electrical Silicones in research and development, quality control, and customer field service, and garnered a patent; he also co-founded and co-owned three successful businesses and was an integral founder and Vice President of Research & Development for Specialty Silicone Products, where he earned 12 patents; and

WHEREAS, Ned J. Reo was an avid golfer and co-owned several harness track racing horses with his daughter; he was a volunteer fireman, as

well as a member of the Knights of Columbus, the VFW Memorial Post No. 5800, and a communicant of St. Clements Church; and

WHEREAS, Ned and his wife, the former Patricia Babbie, moved to Saratoga Springs in November of 1993; the couple spent 46 wonderful years living, working, and laughing together; Ned died on July 18, 2023; 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 risked their lives for their beloved Nation; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Nataleno J. Reo 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 Nataleno J. Reo 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 Nataleno J. Reo.