

Senate Resolution No. 1421

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING David A. Catallo 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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those outstanding individuals whose lives of courage, sacrifice, and service have profoundly enriched the State of New York and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, David A. Catallo, a lifelong resident of the Town of Waterford and a member of the Greatest Generation, is posthumously being honored upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of the Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, in recognition of his extraordinary valor, patriotism, and lifelong commitment to public service; 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, David A. Catallo was born on November 14, 1924, in Waterford, New York, the son of the late Orazio and Loretta Villa Catallo, and was a graduate of Waterford High School, where his deep roots in the community first took hold; and

WHEREAS, In service to his country during one of the most consequential moments in world history, David A. Catallo entered the United States Navy on November 2, 1942, and served honorably as a Navy Corpsman during World War II; and

WHEREAS, After completing his training in Florida, he was deployed to England and assigned to the 6th Naval Beach Battalion, whose perilous mission was to establish beach markers, direct incoming troop movements, and provide immediate medical care to wounded service members during amphibious landings; and

WHEREAS, On June 6, 1944-D-Day-David A. Catallo crossed the English Channel aboard LCI-88 as part of the first wave of American forces to land on Omaha Beach, enduring hours of relentless enemy shelling while courageously performing his duties under fire; and

WHEREAS, During the assault, he was wounded by an artillery shell explosion and evacuated from the battlefield, later regaining consciousness in a field hospital in England, having demonstrated extraordinary bravery and selflessness in the face of grave danger; and

WHEREAS, For his valor and gallantry in combat, David A. Catallo was awarded the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Bronze

Star Medal with "V" Device, the World War II Victory Medal, and the American Campaign Medal, as well as the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honor, decorations bestowed by the French Government in recognition of his heroism during the liberation of France; and

WHEREAS, David A. Catallo was honorably discharged from the United States Navy on June 9, 1945, and was further distinguished by the fact that he and three of his brothers-Anthony, Merico, and Feody-served simultaneously in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, a testament to a family's profound devotion to country; and

WHEREAS, Following his military service, David A. Catallo continued a lifetime of public service through his 35-year career with the United States Postal Service, including distinguished service as Waterford Postmaster from 1972 until his retirement in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, he was an inactive member of the Kavanaugh Hook and Ladder Company, where he served as Treasurer for an extraordinary 41 consecutive years and was honored in 2010 with a plaque commemorating 65 years of service; and

WHEREAS, He was also a lifetime member and former Treasurer of the Waterford Knights of Columbus, a member of the Waterford Bocce League-serving as League President and Team Captain-and a member of the Waterford Golf League, reflecting a life rich in fellowship, leadership, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, David A. Catallo shared 69 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Gloria, and together they raised two children, Lorry and Larry, building a family legacy grounded in love, faith, and service; and

WHEREAS, David A. Catallo passed away on October 15, 2019, at the age of 94, surrounded by his loving family, leaving behind a life story that embodies the very ideals of liberty, sacrifice, and devotion to others; and

WHEREAS, The Liberty Medal is reserved for those individuals whose exceptional achievements and character serve as a lasting inspiration, and David A. Catallo's heroism in war and steadfast service in peace make him eminently worthy of this highest distinction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body commend David A. Catallo posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of a Liberty Medal, in grateful recognition of his extraordinary valor, selfless service, and enduring contributions to the State of New York and the United States of America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of David A. Catallo.