Senate Resolution No. 549

BY: Senator SCARCELLA-SPANTON

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2025, as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young people within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who serve as role models for their peers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2025, as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of Purple Up Day on Tuesday, April 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, During Month of the Military Child we honor the 1,602,261 military children, youth and teens serving alongside our nation's service members; and

WHEREAS, While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children; military families move on average every two to three years, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks; and

WHEREAS, Our military kids bring joy to our hearts, and we work hard to ensure they have access to the support and resources they need; each year, the Month of the Military Child Dandelion Festival is held at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, Dandelions are the symbol given to military children because they are able to grow and bloom just about anywhere their roots are planted; additionally, they symbolize happiness, joy, perseverance, endurance and hope; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to three active duty Army installations, Fort Drum Army Base, U.S. Military Academy Army Base at West Point and Fort Hamilton Army Base; housing the 10th Mountain Division, nearly 20,000 soldiers call Fort Drum home; and

WHEREAS, In addition, there are over 15,000 geographical dispensed National Guard and Reserve Soldiers and nearly 44,000 military children living in New York, not on military installations; and

WHEREAS, Military children make up a very special part of our nation's population; although young, these brave sons and daughters stand in steadfast support of their military parents through moves and deployments on behalf of our country; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1986, the Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger,

and underscores the important role military children play in the armed forces community; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) joins the Department of Defense and the military community in celebrating April as the Month of the Military Child; in DoDEA communities around the world, the most essential strategic imperatives are: establishing an educational system that progressively builds the college and career readiness of all DoDEA students; and establishing the organizational capacity to operate more effectively and efficiently as a model, unified school system; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital organization aims to challenge each student to maximize his or her potential and to excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically for life, college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the month, DoDEA will encourage schools to plan special events to honor military children; these efforts and special events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Purple is the color which symbolizes all branches of the military; when combined, Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue, make purple; consequently, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, has been designated as Purple Up Day, a day for communities across the country to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, Military children exemplify the potential inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; they have brought enduring honor to their families and their communities through their many sacrifices and achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2025, as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.