

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sergeant Deon L. Taylor posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Army National Guard

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sergeant Deon L. Taylor posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Army National Guard, to be celebrated at its Black History Month Kick-Off celebration on Tuesday, February 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, This year's national theme is "An African American Tribute to Our Troops and Their Families"; and

WHEREAS, This special celebration will include the name of Sergeant Deon Taylor as a recipient of State recognition; this particular award was established as one of the Empire State's highest honors for community service; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor grew up in the Bronx, New York, dreaming about making a difference in other people's lives; according to his grandmother, Shirley Taylor, "he always wanted to be a cop, ever since he was a little boy he always wanted to help."; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor went to high school in Lewiston, Maine, where he was a notable athlete; after high school, he joined the New York Army National Guard in 1997 and was based with the 27th Brigade Combat Team in Syracuse; he later transferred to the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Sergeant Deon Taylor graduated from Old Westbury College in Long Island with a degree in Sociology and Criminology; he joined the New York Police Department in 2005 as a Transit Cop and a year later, he was promoted to the Narcotics Division in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor faced danger daily as an undercover narcotics operative; Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said "Deon Taylor made a difference in his short time on the force. He took the most dangerous drugs off the streets, along with obtaining crucial evidence that led to search warrants. He did it all while remaining modest, polite and respectful of others"; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor was a dedicated family man who lived upstate with his 8-year-old son, DaRue; he was truly a devoted hands-on father; he also cared for his mother, Pamela; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Deon Taylor was a Fire-Direction Specialist, zeroing in on terrorist targets when he was killed in western Afghanistan on October 22, 2008 just as he was nearing the end of his deployment and planning an August wedding to his fiancée, Caitlin Casey; Sergeant Deon Taylor courageously served his city at home and his nation abroad; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved with great respect and reverent esteem, and, on behalf of all of the citizens of the Empire State, to renew its tribute to the men and women of New York State who so courageously served their State and Nation in defense of freedom and democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sergeant Deon L. Taylor posthumously upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the New York Army National Guard; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant Taylor's parents, Leon and Pamela.