

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Colonel Theodore Dobias upon the occasion of celebrating 50 years of distinguished service to New York Military Academy

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, In addition, members and former 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Colonel Theodore Dobias upon the occasion of celebrating 50 years of distinguished service to New York Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Theodore Dobias has served for 50 years on the staff of New York Military Academy; he was a Commandant, leader, role model, coach and a highly decorated soldier in World War II; and

WHEREAS, As stated in THE SHIELD, the alumni publication of the New York Military Academy, concerning Colonel Theodore Dobias, "No one in the history of New York Military Academy has devoted his entire working life to a singular cause: helping boys and girls develop into proud, confident and ethical young men and women"; it further stated, "Colonel Ted Dobias always tried to 'instill pride, spirit and brotherhood' in the cadets under his charge"; and

WHEREAS, Donald Trump, an alumnus, Class of 1964, of the New York Military Academy, wrote in his book THE ART OF THE DEAL, there was one teacher in particular who had a big impact on him and that educator was Colonel Theodore Dobias; and

WHEREAS, "Maj", short for Major, Colonel Theodore Dobias treated all cadets the same, which often made those from privileged backgrounds learn to be respectful of their fellow cadets and officers, and to appreciate strength of character; and

WHEREAS, At age 17, while a student at New York Military Academy, with World War II raging in Europe, Theodore Dobias enlisted into the United States Army; his Division, the famed 10th Mountain Division, joined the battle for Italy and fought all the way to Salzburg, Austria; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Theodore Dobias won many military decorations for his service in World War II, including the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster; and

WHEREAS, After returning to the United States from the war, Colonel Theodore Dobias rejoined New York Military Academy; he was welcomed back in a letter from the Academy's Superintendent who stated, "It is a source of pride and joy to have you in the Corps of Cadets. Your leadership through battle experience has made itself felt in our Corps of Cadets"; and

WHEREAS, Upon his graduation from New York Military Academy in 1948, the Academy offered Theodore Dobias the position of tactical officer for E, F, and G companies; he also coached varsity baseball, JV football, and girls' softball and basketball; and

WHEREAS, During his career at New York Military Academy, Colonel Theodore Dobias progressed to the rank of Colonel, Assistant Commandant, Commandant of Cadets and an Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Theodore Dobias has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities

offered at the New York Military Academy for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; 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 honor Colonel Theodore Dobias upon the occasion of celebrating 50 years of distinguished service to New York Military Academy; and for his distinguished military service to the Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Theodore Dobias.