

BY: Senator MARCHIONE

HONORING Lieutenant Colonel John Brownrigg upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Home Town Hero Award by the Reverend Francis A. Kelley Society of Saint Joseph's Church

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

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 honor Lieutenant Colonel John Brownrigg upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Home Town Hero Award by the Reverend Francis A. Kelley Society of Saint Joseph's Church, to be celebrated at its 5th Annual Award Ceremony on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at the East Greenbush YMCA; and

WHEREAS, John Brownrigg began his illustrious career in the United States Army as a ROTC Cadet at Cornell University in June of 1963; after graduation, he was commissioned an infantry second lieutenant on June 26, 1967, and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as a rifle platoon leader; and

WHEREAS, Upon completion of Officer's Basic and Airborne Schools, John Brownrigg deployed with the 101st Airborne to Vietnam, on November 27, 1967, with 1/501st Infantry Battalion as advanced party commander to secure the unit's base camp at Chu Chi, RVN, and subsequently moving to Camp Eagle in Quang Tri Province in Northern I Corps; and

WHEREAS, The 1/501 Battalion was heavily involved in the defense and recapturing of Hue City, Quang Tri Province during the Tet Offensive in February of 1968; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant John Brownrigg was then sent to Advisor's School and Military Language School in Monterey, California; after being promoted to Captain in 1969, he was deployed to Vietnam as an A-team multi-national advisory team leader with Military Area Command Vietnam-Special Operations Group-MACV-SOG; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Captain John Brownrigg assisted the Vietnamese Regular Army units with training and military operations against the enemy; during the assignment, a platoon of the Vietnamese Battalion for which he was the advisor became entrapped by a large enemy force; and

WHEREAS, Captain John Brownrigg directed two gun ships and a transport helicopter to provide suppressing artillery fire at the enemy;

although severely wounded, he was able to direct the gunships and fighter jets with close air and artillery fire, allowing the soldiers to be evacuated on the transport helicopter; and

WHEREAS, This brave soldier went back to Vietnam in 1970, on a special tour with MACV-SOG to look for Prisoners of War; he spent four months looking for missing patriots and an Air Force pilot who had been shot down flying an observation mission for him; and

WHEREAS, For his honorable and courageous service during the Vietnam War, Captain John Brownrigg was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, three Commendation Medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute Badge, and Army Campaign Ribbon with 14 campaign devices, five Unit Citation Medals, two Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry with palm device, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Medal from Governor Nelson Rockefeller; and

WHEREAS, After valiantly serving five years on Active Duty, Captain John Brownrigg joined the United States National Guard and the Army Reserves where he held various command and staff positions; he retired from the service after 27 total years in the military, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Lieutenant Colonel John Brownrigg was a national petroleum sales manager for major oil companies for 39 years as well as a distributor sales manager for six years; he retired in 2015, and currently does environmental and real estate consulting; and

WHEREAS, A resident of West Sand Lake, Lieutenant Colonel John Brownrigg has actively served the Sand Lake Kiwanis for more 30 years as a member, Club President, Distinguished Lieutenant Governor, and three-time District Chair; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, who has shown him love and support and rejoices in his many achievements; 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 Lieutenant Colonel John Brownrigg upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Home Town Hero Award by the Reverend Francis A. Kelley Society of Saint Joseph's Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lieutenant Colonel John Brownrigg.