

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Commander Eugene J. Ratigliano 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, 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 commend Commander Eugene J. Ratigliano 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, to be presented at the Department of New York State Convention on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, At that time, Eugene J. Ratigliano will officially end his term as the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; 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, Eugene J. Ratigliano, a native of Watertown, New York, enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve on August 17, 1965, and completed basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois; upon graduating, he was ordered to active duty aboard the USS Guadalcanal (LPH-7), where he participated in a number of deployments at sea; and

WHEREAS, Eugene J. Ratigliano proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy for over 26 years, retiring in September of 1991, with the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9); and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Eugene J. Ratigliano successfully completed numerous leadership assignments including Navy Recruiting as the Command Master Chief and Chief Recruiter for 174 recruiters in a 10 state recruiting region, and as the Director of Administration for a Naval Readiness Command Staff during Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, Following his active service, Eugene J. Ratigliano was employed by the United States Department of Energy's Naval Reactors Division for 21 years of Federal civilian service before his retirement; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service, Eugene J. Ratigliano was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, four Navy Good Conduct Medals, two Naval

Reserve Meritorious Service Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Foreign Expeditionary Medal, nine Navy Recruiting Ribbons, five Navy Recruiting Gold Wreaths for Excellence, two Armed Forces Reserve Medals, Navy Sharpshooter Medal, Navy Expert Rifleman Medal, New York State Conspicuous Service Medal, New York State Long and Faithful Service Medal, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, as well as the New York Naval Militia Recruiting Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, During and following his military service, Eugene J. Ratigliano earned his Associate of Science degree in business management, a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration, and a Master of Arts degree with honors in naval warfare; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his fellow veterans, Eugene J. Ratigliano has held numerous leadership positions, both elected and appointed, and served as Post Commander for three years earning the All State Commanders Award, and again as Commander of his County Council where he served for two years, and earned his second All State Commander's Award; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Eugene J. Ratigliano began his advancement through the chairs of his District, and was elected District 3 Commander for 2013-2014; today, he holds the title of Quartermaster; and

WHEREAS, Eugene J. Ratigliano has served the Department of New York in various capacities including State Inspector and Chief of Staff, and has been appointed to a number of committees such as the Veteran Service Committee, By-Laws Committee, National Affairs Committee, Convention Committee and the Service Officer Journal and Raffle Committees; and

WHEREAS, On June 9, 2018, Eugene J. Ratigliano was elected State Commander at the VFW 99th State Convention in Albany; and

WHEREAS, Eugene J. Ratigliano is also an important part of his community, serving on many committees such as the Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Committee, World War I Memorial Refurbishment Committee, Veterans Parade Committee, and the local Congressional Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Eugene J. Ratigliano is a Gold Legacy life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, life member of both the Disabled American Veterans and the VFW National Home for Children, and a participant of American Legion Post 234, Italian American War Veterans Post 35, the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Fleet Reserve Association Branch 285 and Military Order of the Cootie; and a 52 year member of the United States Naval Institute; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, of 46 years, the former Nancy Jean Metz, their two children, Jennifer and Andrew, and their grandson, Jack, all of whom have shown him love and support and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize

that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Eugene J. Ratigliano has demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; 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 commend Commander Eugene J. Ratigliano 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Commander Eugene J. Ratigliano.