

**BY:** Senator JORDAN

**COMMENDING** John Russell Reitano posthumously 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 John Russell Reitano posthumously 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

**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,** John Russell Reitano was born on February 6, 1926, to the late Anthony and Mary (Marvelli) Reitano in Troy, New York, where he attended St. Peter's School, Troy High School, and Troy Business School; and

**WHEREAS,** On November 2, 1943, John Russell Reitano enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country as a gunners mate with Aviation, Construction, Ordinance, Repair Navy (ACORN 45) during World War II; throughout the liberation of the Philippine Islands, he secured, repaired and provided fire cover for Sea Bees rebuilding the landing strip at Sangley Point; and

**WHEREAS,** For his courageous service during the World War II, John Russell Reitano was awarded the American Theater Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and Asiatic Pacific Medal; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon the completion of his military service on May 7, 1946, John Russell Reitano returned to New York and married the former Dorothy Berlingieri at the Church of the Feast of the Assumption on September 26, 1949, in Mechanicville; together, they were the proud parents of two sons, John (Frances) and Paul (Peggy); and

**WHEREAS,** John Russell Reitano was employed at Wooltex, the Golub Corporation-Central Markets and Shop Rite; after his much deserved retirement, he enjoyed his job as a greeter for the Walmart in Halfmoon, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Devoted to both his fellow veterans and community, John Russell Reitano was a member of the Italian Fraternal Hall and Veterans of Lansingburgh, Past Commander VFW Post 6928, and served on the Family

Day in the Park Committee; and

**WHEREAS,** A talented musician, John Russell Reitano played the bass and drums and was the band leader of the Dixieland Ambassadors and the Johnny Rei Trio; he also liked to paint, bowl, golf and play softball; and

**WHEREAS,** Above all, John Russell Reitano loved spending time with his beloved family, especially his three grandchildren, Kate (Chris), Justin (Nicole), and Nicholas (Ashely); and his one great-grandson, Liam; and

**WHEREAS,** John Russell Reitano died on March 21, 2005, at the age of 79; he was buried with military honors in St. Paul's Cemetery in Mechanicville; 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, John Russell Reitano 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 John Russell Reitano posthumously 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 the family of John Russell Reitano.