

BY: Senator RATH

HONORING United States Army Veteran Sergeant Robert B. Cierniak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Purple Heart

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 United States Army Veteran Sergeant Robert B. Cierniak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the much-deserved Purple Heart presented by retired Colonel Jim Schultz; Robert's wife, Michele; their two daughters, Robyn (Matt) and Lauren; and his beloved dog, Morgan at a moving ceremony on Wednesday, March 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The prestigious Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action; and

WHEREAS, After 52 years of delays, Sergeant Robert B. Cierniak received this long overdue award for wounds he suffered when his helicopter was struck by enemy fire on March 31, 1970; and

WHEREAS, Robert B. Cierniak proudly served his country as a member of Company C, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces in the United States Army during the Vietnam War; the Special Forces groups and Vietnamese irregular soldiers joined together to form the MIKE Force, a quick-reaction unit that was used to secure or reinforce or retake captured local base camps; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Sergeant Robert B. Cierniak 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 honor United States Army Veteran Sergeant Robert B. Cierniak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Purple Heart; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant Robert B. Cierniak.

