

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Joseph S. Forte,
distinguished veteran, devoted family man and
dedicated member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose military service and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Forte of Kingston, New York, died on Thursday, March 17, 2022, just nine days short of his 93rd Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Born on March 26, 1929, in Kingston, New York, he was the son of the late Machileo and Lillian (Turco) Forte; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 15, Joseph S. Forte became a member of the New York Guard and after turning 16, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps to serve his country during World War II; he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was an instructor for B-25 Gunners; and

WHEREAS, When it was discovered he was underage, young Joseph S. Forte was discharged and returned home to work various jobs until he turned 17 and then reenlisted; and

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Forte auditioned and was accepted for the United States Military Academy Band at West Point; for the next 26 years, he was a member of the band's "Hellcats" and traveled with the football team in addition to performing other duties with the band; and

WHEREAS, During his time in service to his country, Joseph S. Forte competed in many marksmanship competitions in both rifle and pistol; and

WHEREAS, He won many competitions and received an "Excellence in Competition" Marksmanship Rating, as well as holding certifications for Expert Marksman in rifle, pistol, carbine, and machine gun; and

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Forte's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement, Joseph S. Forte was actively involved in many local veteran affairs organizations where he held numerous offices; for his service, he was inducted into the New York State Senate Veteran's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Forte performed Taps at countless military services in the Ulster County area, stopping shortly after turning 91; and

WHEREAS, Joseph S. Forte will be remembered as a man who would do

anything for his family, friends, and veterans; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his first wife and the mother of his children, Teresa Forte; his second wife, Carol A. Forte; two children, Edward Forte and Teresa M. "Terri" Forte-Caballero; one grandchild, Anthony Sauro; and three siblings, Teresa DeBrosky, Angeline Nelson and Michael P. Forte, Joseph S. Forte is survived by his six children, Marian Apprich, Joseph P. (Mary) Forte, SFC William J.J. (Doris) Forte, Lawrence W. Forte, Rose Forte-Piccoli (Frank), and Lt. Col. Anthony K. Forte; 18 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren; as well as one sister, Arlene Bruck; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Joseph S. Forte leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Joseph S. Forte, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph S. Forte.