

**BY:** Senator JORDAN

**COMMENDING** Marilynn A. and Gerald John Wright, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of their designation as recipients 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 Marilynn A. and Gerald John Wright, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of their designation as recipients 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,** Marilynn A. Wright was born on September 26, 1920 in Pittsfield, Maine to Charles and Jessie Ryant; her family moved to Tewksbury, Massachusetts, where she grew up and graduated from high school; and

**WHEREAS,** On March 1, 1943, Marilynn A. Wright enrolled in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and was stationed at the Engineer Replacement Center at Fort Devens, Massachusetts; she was later assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and

**WHEREAS,** Marilynn A. Wright was the only woman assigned to a United States Navy Seabees unit for the purpose of repairing bridges stateside; she was honorably discharged on August 30, 1943, having served five months and 30 days of active duty; and

**WHEREAS,** Gerald John Wright, Sr. was born on March 8, 1918, to Elmer T. and Leona Wright Beeman in Oneida Valley, New York, where he grew up and graduated from high school; and

**WHEREAS,** On April 21, 1939, Gerald John Wright, Sr. enlisted in the United States Army and qualified with the M1 Garand; he was trained as a light truck driver and served in the States for three years and three months; and

**WHEREAS,** Private First-Class Gerald John Wright, Sr. was then assigned to Battery D, 5th Field Artillery Battalion in the Eastern Theater of Operation on August 7, 1942; his unit was part of the 1st Infantry Division which participated in every major European campaign during World War II from North Africa to Germany; and

**WHEREAS**, After valiantly serving his country abroad for two years and 10 months, Private First-Class Gerald John Wright, Sr. was discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey on June 15, 1945; and

**WHEREAS**, For his courageous service during World War II, Private First-Class Gerald John Wright, Sr. was awarded the Bronze Star, EAME Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, Gerald John Wright, Sr. and the former Marilyn A. Ryant were united in marriage on April 4, 1942, and together they raised five children, Fred, Gerald Jr., Carol, Roger and Richard; Gerald worked as a truck driver for Schwerman Trucking and Marilyn worked as a nurse's aide at various facilities in New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, They were the proud grandparents of eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Furthermore, both Gerald and Marilyn were active members of the American Legion Post No. 184 in Hudson, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Marilyn A. Wright died on December 8, 2016, at the age of 96, and was buried next to her beloved husband at Tyler Cemetery in Kirkville, New York; 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 risked their lives for their beloved Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, Marilyn A. and Gerald John Wright, Sr. both demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore the highest respect of this 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 Marilyn A. and Gerald John Wright, Sr. posthumously upon the occasion of their designation as recipients 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 Marilyn A. and Gerald John Wright, Sr.