

BY: Senator RITCHIE

HONORING the Raines Family upon the occasion of their designation as recipient of the Association of the United States Army 2020 Volunteer Family of the Year Award

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to the dedicated efforts of those individuals from across the State of New York who volunteer their time and energies in service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Volunteerism promotes family and community solidarity; most importantly, people who volunteer their time in civic and charitable endeavors inspire others to the call of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Staff Sergeant Casey Raines, his wife Brittany, and their six children, Kamden, Mason, Brooklyn, Caleb, Caiden and Bentley, upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Volunteer Family of the Year Award, to be celebrated at its Annual Meeting and Exposition held in October of 2020; and

WHEREAS, The AUSA National Awards honor individuals for their selfless service and dedication to the Army and its soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Founded on July 5, 1950, AUSA is a nonprofit educational and professional development association serving America's Army and supporting a strong national defense; and

WHEREAS, AUSA provides a voice for the Army, supports the soldiers, and honors those who have served in order to advance the security of the nation; and

WHEREAS, Together, the Raines family takes part in many volunteer activities, including coordinating donations every summer, collecting backpacks filled with school supplies for military children; the family also helps with gathering holiday meals, sorting food items, loading bags and distributing them to families; and

WHEREAS, In October of 2018, the Raines family founded Warm Up Watertown, an initiative which collects scarves and hats during the winter months and places them throughout the community with notes asking those in need to take them; and

WHEREAS, Both Staff Sergeant Casey Raines and his wife, Brittany, serve with the 91st Military Police Battalion at Fort Drum, New York, helping with the North Country Spouses' Club; additionally, they are leaders in the Solider and Family Readiness Group, the Fort Drum Girl Scouts and volunteer with several other groups in the area; and

WHEREAS, Every holiday season, Brittany Raines collects and

distributes donated toys to children of Fort Drum soldiers; the Raines children, who range in age from five to 13, follow the example of their parents and are active volunteers in their church, as well as with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, USO and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, As recipients of this most prestigious award, the Raines family truly embody the meaning of service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Not only have they served their North Country community, the Raines family have bravely served our country as a military family, regularly demonstrating their commitment to our nation and its freedom; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to honor the Raines Family, a family that has set a shining example of service for so many others to follow; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Raines Family upon the occasion of their designation as recipient of the Association of the United States Army 2020 Volunteer Family of the Year Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Raines Family.