

BY: Senator RATH

CELEBRATING the dedication of the Town of Clarence
Veteran's Memorial on May 31, 2021

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces, who served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to applaud the organizations who honor those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the dedication of the Town of Clarence Veteran's Memorial with a Ceremony on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Under the direction of the Clarence Rotary Foundation, in conjunction with the support and project management from the Town of Clarence, the Veteran's Memorial is dedicated to the millions of United States Military Veterans who have served and continue to serve their country; and

WHEREAS, The site will be located at the Clarence Main Street Town Park in front of the historic Clarence Town Clubhouse; the original memorial design includes five granite forever stone panels to represent each branch of the military, and the modest height of the panels serves to blend into the historic nature of the surrounding landscape; and

WHEREAS, The Honor Wall Veterans will have the following information for their listing: name, military branch and years served; and

WHEREAS, The idea for the Clarence Veteran's Memorial started soon after the recent loss of Captain Andrew D. Byers, a long-time Clarence resident, honor-student and star athlete; after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 2008, and serving over eight years with several overseas trips with the United States Armed Forces, Captain Byers was killed in action in Afghanistan, while performing rescue efforts to save his platoon from enemy fire in November of 2016; and

WHEREAS, After his funeral services, Captain Andrew D. Byers' twin sister, Lauren, commented how there was no place to go to honor and remember the names of the soldiers of Clarence, New York; henceforth, the Clarence Rotary Foundation took action and decided to create a permanent gathering place where individuals can pay tribute to Clarence residents, relatives, friends, and fellow Americans for their tremendous sacrifices made for our Nation and for the benefit of all of its citizens; 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 their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their 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 Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the dedication of the Town of Clarence Veteran's Memorial on May 31, 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Clarence Rotary Foundation and the Town of Clarence.