

Assembly Resolution No. 691

**BY:** M. of A. Hunter

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 25, 2022, as Medal of Honor Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS**, Throughout our Nation's history, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have preserved our freedom, protected our security and upheld our democratic values; and

**WHEREAS**, From the battles of the American Revolution through the crucible of two world wars to the war on terrorism today, our men and women in uniform have stood proudly in defense of the United States and in the cause of liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, The Medal of Honor, the highest distinction that can be awarded to a member of the Armed Forces, is awarded by the President in the name of the Congress to members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, The Nation will forever be in debt to the recipients of the Medal of Honor for their bravery and sacrifice in times of war or armed conflict; and

**WHEREAS**, The first Medal of Honor awards were presented to six men on March 25, 1863, by the Secretary of War; and

**WHEREAS**, The medal was last awarded on December 16, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Only 3,530 and counting individuals out of the millions of men and women who have served our Nation in war, military operations, or other armed conflicts have been awarded the Medal of Honor; the number of Medal of Honor recipients are 3,511 and 66 number of living recipients; 19 have received a second award, with 14 of them who received two separate Medals for two separate actions; and five have received both the Navy and the Army Medal of Honor for the same action; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2007, two Medals of Honor were awarded posthumously to a Marine and a Navy SEAL from the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Corporal Jason L. Dunham, United States Marine Corps. of Scio, New York, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on January 11, 2007, for his heroic action on April 14, 2004, in Karabilah, Iraq; and

**WHEREAS**, Navy SEAL Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy of Patchogue, New York, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on October 22, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, The first United States Navy SEAL since the Vietnam War to

be awarded the Medal of Honor, Lieutenant Murphy is the third recipient since troops were sent to Afghanistan in 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Gary B. Beikirch, from Rochester, New York, passed away on December 26, 2021 at the age of 74; he was presented the Medal of Honor by President Nixon on October 15, 1973, for conspicuous gallantry in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Headquarters and Museum for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society is located aboard the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and

**WHEREAS**, On December 27, 2021, President Biden signed into law legislation establishing the Medal of Honor Monument to recognize the Medal of Honor; the monument will be located in Washington, D.C. and will complement the future National Medal of Honor Museum to be located in Arlington, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, It is appropriate to honor the heroic recipients of the Medal of Honor; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 25, 2022, as Medal of Honor Day in the State of New York, and to urge all citizens of the State of New York to display the Nation's flag on that date to honor all recipients of the Medal of Honor; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and the National Headquarters and Museum for the Congressional Medal of Honor.