Senate Resolution No. 2239

BY: Senator ASHBY

RECOGNIZING the Patriot Guard Riders of New York for their Honor Missions in March of 2024, which consisted of funeral escort services and flag lines for the memorials of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casey Frankoski and Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Grassia III

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long- standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize the Patriot Guard Riders of New York for their Honor Missions In March of 2024, which consisted of funeral escort services and flag lines for the memorials of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casey Frankoski and Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Grassia III in Rensselaer and Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, Patriot Guard Riders was founded in 2005 to shield families of fallen heroes from those that would disrupt the services of their loved ones; although originally founded in Kansas, the organization has grown to include thousands of members across all 50 states in the U.S.; New York State began organizing its sect in 2006 and became a non-profit corporation in 2010; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Patriot Guard Riders is to attend the funeral services and stand flag lines for military members, veterans, and first responders as invited guests of the family, to show respect and gratitude for those who served, as well as support their families; the organization's flag lines may be present at airport arrivals, funeral homes, churches, dignified transfers, and at burials or internments; and

WHEREAS, The current New York State Captain Bill Schaaf's and Assistant State Captain Ray Sestak's commitment to honoring the fallen and all wounded veterans and first responders is beyond compare; and where their countless endeavors also include raising funds for Wreaths Across America, and most importantly, organizing civilian volunteers to place wreaths in National Cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Patriot Guard Riders of New York supports the military, veterans, and Blue and Gold Star New York State families through its Help On The Homefront (HOTH) program; this esteemed organization honors those "forgotten" veterans who have no family to claim their remains by securing a final resting place and arranging for a full military funeral through its Veteran Recovery Program; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when

individuals and organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the Patriot Guard Riders of New York for their Honor Missions in March of 2024, which consisted of funeral escort services and flag lines for the memorials of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Casey Frankoski and Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Grassia III in Rensselaer and Schenectady, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Patriot Guard Riders of New York.