Senate Resolution No. 2425

BY: Senator SKOUFIS

COMMENDING Terry Alan Anderson posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient 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 esteemed Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Terry Alan Anderson posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient 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, Terry Alan Anderson, of Greenwood Lake, New York, was born to Glen and Lily Anderson on October 27, 1947; after graduating from high school, he declined a scholarship to the University of Michigan, enlisting in the United States Marine Corps where he had attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and served as a combat journalist during two terms in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, After his return home, Terry Alan Anderson graduated with degrees in journalism and political science from Iowa State University; starting a career with the Associated Press, he reported from vastly different places, such as Kentucky, Japan, and South Africa, prior to his arrival in Lebanon, during wartime chaos, in 1982; on March 16, 1985, he was kidnapped by militants of the Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah in Beirut in response to the involvement of the United States in the Lebanese Civil War; and

WHEREAS, One of several Westerners who were abducted, Terry Alan Anderson sacrificed tremendously for six and a half years and was the longest-held American hostage during the conflict; as the Chief Middle East Correspondent for the Associated Press, he spent several years reporting on the upheaval and violence in Lebanon as the country fought against Israel; and

WHEREAS, Though he endured much hardship, the brave journalist maintained his quick wit and resolve, demanded better treatment from his captors, and taught his fellow hostages sign language to communicate privately; and

WHEREAS, Finally, in December of 1991, Terry Alan Anderson was released to return home to the United States; he taught journalism and

supported numerous charitable causes, including the Vietnam Children's Fund, which has built over 50 schools in Vietnam, and the Father Lawrence Jenco Foundation, supporting individuals who do charity work in Appalachian communities; and

WHEREAS, Most recently, Terry Alan Anderson sat on the Board of Directors of the Rumshock Veterans Foundation, a local Orange County organization working to create a supportive and collaborative community for veterans in Port Jervis, New York; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Terry Alan Anderson gave public speeches, taught journalism at several prominent universities and operated a blues bar, Cajun restaurant, horse ranch, and gourmet restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Terry Alan Anderson died on Sunday, April 21, 2024, at the age of 76, in Greenwood Lake, New York; and

WHEREAS, Terry Alan Anderson is survived by his daughters, Sulome and Gabrielle Anderson; a sister, Judy Anderson; and a brother, Jack Anderson; he was predeceased by his sister, Peggy Say; 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 to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Terry Alan Anderson demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his 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 Terry Alan Anderson posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient 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 Terry Alan Anderson.