Senate Resolution No. 548

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Clarence W. Dart 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 the citizenry of this great State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Clarence W. Dart 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, Clarence W. Dart was drafted in 1942, and entered the U.S. Army Air Corps on August 27, 1942; he attended the Elmira Aviation Ground School, then served as a member of the 332nd Fighter Group and was assigned to the 99th Fighter Squadron in the 12th Air Force in North Africa; and

WHEREAS, As one of the now famous Tuskegee Airman flying P-40s with the 318th Army Air Force Unit Squadron F, Clarence W. Dart flew 95 missions and was shot down twice; he later flew P-51s escorting 15th Air Force bombers; and

WHEREAS, Upon the occasion of his discharge from active duty at the rank of Captain on January 3, 1947, Clarence W. Dart went on to serve in the NY Air National Guard and retired at the rank of Lt. Colonel; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous service during World War II, Clarence W. Dart was awarded two Purple Hearts for injuries sustained during air combat, the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the WWII Victory Medal, and the American Defense Medal, the NYS Conspicuous Service Cross, and the NYS Conspicuous Service Star; and

WHEREAS, After his service, Clarence W. Dart attended the Aero Industries Tech Institute in California, GE Flight Test School, and was affiliated with Knolls Atomic Power Lab from 1949-1987 where he was a Designing Draftsman; and

WHEREAS, Clarence W. Dart's post-service honors include the Elmira Free Academy Wall of Fame and 43rd Senate District's inductee into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, In March of 2007, Clarence W. Dart and fellow Tuskegee Airmen were also recognized at the U.S. Capitol with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress may bestow; and

WHEREAS, Clarence W. Dart was a noted guest speaker on Black history at various local schools, colleges and universities, and his community service included the Charlton School for Girls Trustee Board, the Salvation Army Board, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. Community Relations Board, New York State Air Museum AIM High Program, and the finance committees of both the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church, of which he was a devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Clarence W. Dart died on February 17, 2012, at the age of 91; 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 his patriotism both at home and abroad, Clarence W. Dart 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 Clarence W. Dart 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 Clarence W. Dart.