Senate Resolution No. 751

**BY:** Senator SCARCELLA-SPANTON

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023, as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young people within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who serve as role models for their peers; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concerns and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023, as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of Purple Up Day on Friday, April 15, 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** During Month of the Military Child we honor the 1,602,261 military children, youth and teens serving alongside our nation's service members; and

**WHEREAS,** While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children; military families move on average every two to three years, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks; and

**WHEREAS,** Our military kids bring joy to our hearts, and we work hard to ensure they have access to the support and resources they need; on April 29, 2023, the annual Month of the Military Child Dandelion Festival will be held at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island; and

**WHEREAS,** Dandelions are the symbol given to military children because they are able to grow and bloom just about anywhere their roots are planted; additionally, they symbolize happiness, joy, perseverance, endurance and hope; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State is home to three active duty Army installations, Fort Drum Army Base, U.S. Military Academy Army Base at West Point and Fort Hamilton Army Base; housing the 10th Mountain Division, nearly 20,000 soldiers call Fort Drum home; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, there are over 15,000 geographical dispensed National Guard and Reserve Soldiers and nearly 44,000 military children living in New York, not on military installations; and

**WHEREAS,** Military children make up a very special part of our nation's population; although young, these brave sons and daughters stand in steadfast support of their military parents through moves and deployments on behalf of our country; and

**WHEREAS,** Established in 1986, the Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger,

and underscores the important role military children play in the armed forces community; and

**WHEREAS,** Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome; and

**WHEREAS,** The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) joins the Department of Defense and the military community in celebrating April as the Month of the Military Child; in DoDEA communities around the world, the most essential strategic imperatives are: establishing an educational system that progressively builds the college and career readiness of all DoDEA students; and establishing the organizational capacity to operate more effectively and efficiently as a model, unified school system; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, this vital organization aims to challenge each student to maximize his or her potential and to excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically for life, college and career readiness; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout the month, DoDEA will encourage schools to plan special events to honor military children; these efforts and special events will stress the importance of providing children with quality services and support to help them succeed in the mobile military lifestyle; and

**WHEREAS,** Purple is the color which symbolizes all branches of the military; when combined, Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue, make purple; consequently, Friday, April 15, 2023, has been designated as Purple Up Day, a day for communities across the country to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices; and

**WHEREAS,** Military children exemplify the potential inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; they have brought enduring honor to their families and their communities through their many sacrifices and achievements; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2023, as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York; 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.