Assembly Resolution No. 2239

BY: M. of A. Woerner

COMMEMORATING the 25th Anniversary of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on July 9, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize milestones of significance which provide a vital service to veterans throughout the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on Tuesday, July 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated on July 9, 1999, as Saratoga National Cemetery, The Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is New York State's sixth national veteran's cemetery and the 116th in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The first phase of this National Cemetery's construction encompassed 60 acres of the 351-acre cemetery and included 5,000 gravesites, 2,000 lawn crypts, 1,500 columbaria niches and 700 garden niches for cremated remains; at full capacity, the cemetery can provide burial space for 175,500 veterans and eligible dependents; and

WHEREAS, On January 24, 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation renaming Saratoga National Cemetery as the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery after Congressman Solomon, who was known as the champion of veterans' causes; and

WHEREAS, Over the past two years, the Saratoga National Cemetery Veteran Memorial Tree Program took root, replanting trees throughout the cemetery that have been lost due to weather and age while providing families of veterans the opportunity to memorialize their loved one with a living, growing memorial; and

WHEREAS, In honor of this upcoming anniversary, the cemetery's Memorial Tree Program has designated section 20 as the site of the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Oak Grove, a space which holds significant meaning as the gravesite of Congressman Gerald B. H. Solomon; and

WHEREAS, The Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery has an Honor Guard Association, which consists of five squads of 12-18 volunteers each to ensure that every veteran receives a proper military burial service at no cost; and

WHEREAS, There are three Medal of Honor recipients buried or memorialized at this National Cemetery; they are: Sergeant Thomas A. Barker (World War II veteran); Technical Sergeant Peter J. Dalessandro (former New York State Senator and World War II veteran): and Specialist

Fourth Class Raymond R. Wright (Vietnam veteran); and

WHEREAS, There are several monuments and memorials located on the grounds of the Saratoga National Cemetery, including: the ship's bell from the U.S.S. Saratoga CV-3 installed in 1999, and a granite and bronze memorial erected on October 19, 2002, in honor of the U.S. Submarine Veterans and AMVETS (American Veterans) donated the carillon in 1999; and

WHEREAS, For 25 years, the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery has served as a final resting place for many who embodied a service above self-persona in service to this Nation, with a staff and board of directors that have been steadfast in maintaining and enhancing the beauty of these grounds; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to observe events which symbolize the historical, social, and cultural development of this great Empire State and embody the principles upon which this Nation was founded, and honor those uniformed soldiers who served to protect its freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York on July 9, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Scott Lamb, Director; members of his Staff; members of the Honor Guard; and members of the Board of Directors of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.