Assembly Resolution No. 554

BY: M. of A. Norris

COMMENDING veteran Stephen Lacki for his meritorious service to the United States Marines during the Korean War

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 Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend veteran Stephen Lacki for his meritorious service to the United States Marines during the Korean War, to be celebrated at a Memorial Day Event on Monday, May 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-year-old Stephen Lacki was raised on his family dairy farm in Pendleton, New York; after graduating from high school in May of 1950, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and completed boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina; since he was only 17 years-old, he was sent to California for Special Weaponry Training; and

WHEREAS, After turning 18, Stephen Lacki proudly served his country as a member of the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Division during the Korean War; during his first year of duty, he was wounded as a Squad Leader; and

WHEREAS, Later, Stephen Lacki took part in the Battle for Hill No. 749 which was an integral enemy strong hold; for his meritorious service, he was awarded many commendations and medals; and

WHEREAS, After learning Stephen Lacki was multi-lingual and spoke fluid Polish, the Marines sent him to language school where he became fluent in Russian, and would go on to learn how to speak five languages in total; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of active duty, Stephen Lacki returned to his hometown, entered the Reserves, and became a member of the National Rifle Association, where he won many championships; and

WHEREAS, Under the GI Bill, Stephen Lacki earned a degree in metallurgy from Erie County Technical School (now Erie Co. Community College); he then took a summer job at Carborundum Metals in Akron, New York, as a spectographer, which was a new science at the time; during his 10 years of service and with help from his employer, he earned his degree in chemistry; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Lacki married the former Floy Baker, and together, they raised their children in Lockport, New York; unfortunately, his nine-year-old son, Johnny, tragically died of leukemia; and

WHEREAS, Stephen and Floy Lacki loved to square dance and taught classes for many years at the Lockport 4-H Center; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, Stephen Lacki went to work at Simons Steele of Lockport where he was employed as a chemistry manager; after 22 years, he was hired as a corporate research engineer with Carborundum Corp of Niagara Falls, New York, where he retired in 1996, after 21 years of service; and

WHEREAS, In the early years of his retirement, Stephen Lacki spent three years training the employees of Harrison Radiator Co. how to use their spectrometer machine which cost well over a million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Lacki also wrote several articles and/or book reviews in military magazines and gave interviews relating his military experience; he has a large collection of war-time memorabilia and has attended several anniversary celebrations of the Korean War and has made many friends, many of whom served in his division; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Stephen Lacki traveled to Camp Pendleton for the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War where the Korean Ambassador gave him a beautiful Korean flag observing the years of the war and is printed in both Korean and English; in 2007, he was invited to attend the dedication of a United States Marine monument at Quantico, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Lacki has truly lived a life of service to his country, family, and community; although he has lost his wife and three of his five children, he enjoys telling stories about his many adventures and his loved ones, especially his granddaughter who served in the United States Marine Corps and spent four years playing in its prestigious band; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Stephen Lacki has 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 veteran Stephen Lacki for his meritorious service to the United States Marines during the Korean War; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Stephen Lacki.