

Senate Resolution No. 1260

**BY:** Senator TEDISCO

**COMMENDING** John J. O'Brien 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 Legislative Body; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend John J. O'Brien 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, to be celebrated at the Saratoga County Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony on Tuesday, August 19, 2025; 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,** John "Jack" O'Brien was born on September 23, 1929, in Brooklyn, New York, to John and Julia O'Brien; he dedicated his life to service, family, and country; and

**WHEREAS,** Jack O'Brien honorably entered the United States Army on January 5, 1949, where he served as Communications Chief with the B Battery, 68th Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion; and

**WHEREAS,** In July 1950, Jack O'Brien and the 68th AAA Battalion deployed from Fort Lewis, Washington, and arrived in Korea in September 1950; the 68th AAA Battalion holds the distinction of being the first Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion to fire in combat in Korea; and

**WHEREAS,** During his extended service in Korea, Jack O'Brien demonstrated exceptional bravery and commitment to duty, ultimately being discharged on January 4, 1952, at the rank of Technical Sergeant; and

**WHEREAS,** For his distinguished service, Jack O'Brien was awarded the Korean Service Medal with five Bronze Campaign Stars, recognizing his participation in multiple major operations during the Korean War; and

**WHEREAS,** Following his military service, Jack O'Brien enjoyed a long and successful career with New York Telephone, later Verizon, serving for 28 years and retiring as Northeast Area Director of the Communications Workers of America; and

**WHEREAS,** Jack O'Brien was a devoted husband to Janice, with whom he shared 70 years of marriage and raised six children; and

**WHEREAS,** During his retirement, Jack O'Brien embraced a life of fulfillment and community involvement, finding joy in boating and earning distinction as a Master Gardener; he remained deeply devoted to his fellow veterans through active membership in the Adirondack Chapter 60 Korean War Veterans, where he honorably served in multiple capacities, including Color Guard, Director for three years, and MIA-POW Officer; and

**WHEREAS,** Jack O'Brien's steadfast commitment to honoring military service and camaraderie was further demonstrated by his unwavering participation in the Korean 68th AAA Gun Battalion reunions, which he faithfully attended for two decades; and

**WHEREAS,** Jack O'Brien passed away on December 6, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of valor, civic dedication, and profound family values; 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 risked their lives for their beloved Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Jack O'Brien 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 John J. O'Brien 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 John J. O'Brien.