

Senate Resolution No. 1290

**BY:** Senator ROLISON

**COMMENDING** Alexander Watkins posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as a 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 so honorably and valiantly served their country, deserve to be recognized, commended, and honored by the people of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals who have displayed great courage and unwavering commitment in the service of their country and community; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Alexander Watkins posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as a recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate, to be celebrated at the Dutchess County Honor-A-Veteran ceremony on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at American Legion Post No. 1302 in Poughkeepsie, New York; 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,** Born and raised in Poughkeepsie, New York, Alexander Watkins was a proud graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, where he distinguished himself as an accomplished athlete in track and field, securing second place at the New York State Championships and gaining recognition as a local sports standout; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1959, at the age of 19, Alexander Watkins answered the call to serve his nation by enlisting in the United States Army, embarking on a military career that would span 27 years and take him across the globe; and

**WHEREAS,** During his early service, Alexander Watkins was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battle Group, 23rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, and continued to pursue his passion for athletics, competing in high jump and middle-distance running events; he later served with Company B, 3rd Motorized Transportation Battalion (Provisional), 32nd Armor Regiment Division, further distinguishing himself in both military and athletic arenas; and

**WHEREAS,** After an honorable discharge in 1962 at the rank of E5, Alexander Watkins chose to re-enlist, affirming his deep commitment to duty; by 1970, he was stationed with the 547th Engineer Company (FB) in

Camp Mercer, Korea, serving as a Staff Sergeant and Motor Sergeant; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his distinguished service, Alexander Watkins served with honor in Vietnam, Korea, and Germany-where he met his beloved wife-earning numerous awards and decorations, including the Purple Heart in recognition of his bravery and sacrifice in Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS,** Rising to the rank of Sergeant Major, Alexander Watkins culminated his 27-year military career in 1987, a testament to his leadership, discipline, and dedication; and

**WHEREAS,** The Watkins family has proudly upheld a tradition of military service, with Alexander's two brothers also serving-one in the United States Army and the other in the Navy-contributing to a family legacy of service in every major conflict since World War I; and

**WHEREAS,** Following his military retirement, Alexander Watkins continued his commitment to public service as a clerk at the Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic Hospital in Maryland and later as a manager at Ames Department Store; though not an official member, he actively participated in numerous Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) events, demonstrating ongoing support for his fellow veterans; and

**WHEREAS,** A devoted family man, Alexander Watkins was the loving father of two children, Schannon Clayton and Alex Fredric Watkins, and the proud grandfather of two grandchildren; he was laid to rest with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery, a final tribute befitting a life of honor and service; and

**WHEREAS,** Remembered as tough, loving, straightforward, honest, strong, and proper, Alexander Watkins remains a revered figure within his family and the Poughkeepsie community, embodying the highest ideals of patriotism, dedication, and sacrifice; 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, Alexander Watkins 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 Alexander Watkins posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, and to extend its sincere gratitude for his valiant and unwavering service to the United States of America; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to the family of Alexander Watkins.