

Senate Resolution No. 1305

BY: Senator MARTINS

CONGRATULATING Sergeant Anthony Catalano upon the occasion of celebrating his 105th Birthday on October 23, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Sergeant Anthony Catalano upon the occasion of celebrating his 105th Birthday on Thursday, October 23, 2025, and paying tribute to his valiant military service and enduring contributions to his community; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Mineola, New York, Sergeant Anthony Catalano exemplifies the very best of the "Greatest Generation," having answered his nation's call to service during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Drafted into the United States Army in 1941, alongside two of his brothers, Sergeant Anthony Catalano was immediately assigned to General George S. Patton's famed 3rd Army, serving in the 70th Infantry Division, known as the "Trailblazers"; and

WHEREAS, In 1944, Sergeant Anthony Catalano and his division endured 83 consecutive days of fierce combat, including participation in the infamous Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest of France, where they fought in sub-freezing temperatures, often without proper winter gear or supplies; and

WHEREAS, Amidst unimaginable conditions, Sergeant Anthony Catalano demonstrated extraordinary leadership, ingenuity, and courage-ordering his men to melt snow for water and bartering his rations for chocolate to sustain his unit until reinforcements and supplies arrived; and

WHEREAS, As his division advanced through Belgium and Germany, Sergeant Anthony Catalano and his soldiers marched for miles on foot through snow and slush, enduring fatigue and exposure, with many suffering from trench foot; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Anthony Catalano's Company was among the American forces that liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp, bearing witness to the atrocities of war and forever carrying the weight of that experience; and

WHEREAS, Following the war's end in Europe, Sergeant Anthony Catalano served an additional four years with the U.S. Group Control Council in Berlin, assisting in the establishment of a provisional German military government and helping to restore order and governance in postwar Europe; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning home, Sergeant Anthony Catalano continued his life of public service, joining the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller at LaGuardia Airport and Idlewild Airport (now John F. Kennedy International Airport), where he rose to the position of Assistant Chief Controller before retiring in 1973; and

WHEREAS, A devoted husband to his late wife, Linda, who passed away in 2009, Sergeant Anthony Catalano has remained active in his community and continues to share his wartime experiences with students and civic groups, helping to educate younger generations about the meaning of duty, sacrifice, and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Anthony Catalano remains an esteemed and active member of VFW Post 5253 in Albertson, New York, where he is held in the highest regard by his fellow veterans and community members alike; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, November 2, 2025, Nassau County and the Village of Mineola will host a Birthday Car Parade passing by Sergeant Catalano's home at 501 Nancy Road, Mineola, to celebrate his remarkable milestone and to express the community's profound gratitude for his service and example; and

WHEREAS, Having reached his 105th year, Sergeant Anthony Catalano stands as a living symbol of courage, resilience, and dedication-his life a testament to the enduring strength of the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Sergeant Anthony Catalano upon the occasion of his 105th Birthday, to extend heartfelt appreciation for his valiant service to the United States of America, and to wish him continued health and happiness in the years to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sergeant Anthony Catalano.