

Senate Resolution No. 1554

BY: Senator MARTINS

COMMENDING the Tribute and Honor Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its 5th Annual Awards Ceremony on February 7, 2026, and paying tribute to this year's Honorees

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably, deserve a special salute from this esteemed Body; the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Tribute and Honor Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its 5th Annual Awards Ceremony at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville, New York, on Saturday, February 7, 2026, and paying tribute to this year's Honorees; and

WHEREAS, Peter Carbone, recipient of the Community Service Award, has more than 50 years of leadership with Bayville's American Legion Post 1285 where he has championed scholarship programs, remembrance events, Boy Scout partnerships, and numerous local civic initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Officer Owen Valance, recipient of the Impact Award, is a former United States Navy aircrewman now serving Glen Cove as a police officer; he recently completed the 22-mile PTSD Awareness Kayak Challenge with his brother and fellow officer, Derek Valance, raising critical awareness and support for veterans' mental health; and

WHEREAS, Long Island Cares, Veterans Services, the Homefront Award Honoree, has served through food banks, resource navigation, and direct outreach; its Veterans Services program provides vital food security and wrap-around support to veterans and their families across Long Island, ensuring that no veteran is left behind in times of need; and

WHEREAS, Eileen Shanahan and Warrior Ranch Foundation, granted the Awareness & Remembrance Award, combine horse rescue, equine therapy, and storytelling to create safe and powerful spaces for veterans and first responders to heal from trauma while building awareness of the challenges they face; and

WHEREAS, Simone Renaud, posthumously honored with the Front Runner Award in recognition of her extraordinary legacy of remembrance and compassion, is affectionately remembered as the "Mother of Normandy"; she devoted her life to honoring fallen Allied soldiers and supporting their families; and

WHEREAS, Robert Freeland, recipient of the Volunteer Award, is a Vietnam War veteran with the 34th Engineer Battalion; he has gone on to

serve as Commander of Port Washington's VFW Post 1819; his decades of volunteer service continue to inspire veterans and community members alike; and

WHEREAS, Philip Como, granted the Leadership Award, is a Marine Corps Vietnam War veteran who was decorated with the Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V"; he has dedicated his life to civic leadership as Deputy Mayor of Sea Cliff, a volunteer firefighter, and Commander of Sea Cliff American Legion Post 456; he is also an active member of Glen Cove's VFW Post 347; and

WHEREAS, Scott Whitting, designee of the Legacy Award, is a United States Army Special Forces veteran of the Vietnam War, earning the Bronze Star and Soldier's Medal before continuing his service as a Major in the New York Guard; a Lifetime Member of the Glenwood Fire Company and longtime member of Glenwood Landing American Legion Post 336, he exemplifies a lifetime of service and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Exhibiting their patriotism and demonstrating their love for their country, these Honorees merit forevermore the highest respect of their State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's patriots 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 the Tribute and Honor Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its 5th Annual Awards Ceremony on February 7, 2026, and paying tribute to this year's Honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Tribute and Honor Foundation and its 2026 Honorees.