

Senate Resolution No. 1957

BY: Senator HINCHEY

COMMENDING Philip Arsenault, Jr. 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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of the State of New York whose lives of service and sacrifice have contributed immeasurably to the strength and character of their communities, their State, and their Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Philip Arsenault, Jr. 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 Columbia County Honor a Veteran ceremony on Monday, April 27, 2026; 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, Philip Arsenault, Jr. was born on February 19, 1945, in Clinton Corners, New York, to Philip Arsenault and Gladys Ackert Arsenault; he was raised in Rhinebeck, New York, where he was affectionately known to family and friends as "Butch"; and

WHEREAS, Answering the call of his country, Philip Arsenault, Jr. was drafted into the United States Army on February 14, 1966, at Albany, New York; following completion of basic training, he attained the rank of Specialist 4 and received advanced training as a Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic (MOS 63B20), a vital role responsible for maintaining and repairing wheeled military vehicles to ensure operational readiness; and

WHEREAS, Specialist 4 Philip Arsenault, Jr. was assigned to the 554th Engineer Battalion, which departed Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 1967 and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, where it was primarily based at Cu Chi from 1967 to 1969, with additional elements stationed at Phu Loi and other locations as needed; and

WHEREAS, During his service in Southeast Asia, Specialist 4 Philip Arsenault, Jr. faithfully executed his duties under challenging and dangerous conditions, contributing to the mission readiness of his unit during a time of conflict in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, After completing 10 months and 10 days of honorable overseas service, Specialist 4 Philip Arsenault, Jr. returned to the United States and was honorably discharged on February 6, 1968, in Oakland, California; and

WHEREAS, For his courageous and dedicated service, Specialist 4 Philip Arsenault, Jr. was awarded the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Vietnam Service Medal with Device, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Sharpshooter Medal; and

WHEREAS, Philip Arsenault, Jr. married the love of his life, Gloria Flint, on February 11, 1966, in Pine Plains, New York; together they built a devoted family and raised five children: Brian, Brenda, Michelle, Tina, and Tammy; and

WHEREAS, A hardworking and dedicated member of his community, Philip Arsenault, Jr. was employed as a truck driver for the Town of Milan Highway Department, where he served with diligence and pride; and

WHEREAS, Philip Arsenault, Jr. died on January 14, 2026, while residing in Elizaville, New York, at the age of 80; he was predeceased by his beloved wife, Gloria, his son Brian, and his son-in-law Thomas Jahoda; and

WHEREAS, He is survived by his loving daughters, Brenda Jahoda, Michelle Jennings, Tina Lyons, and Tammy Lyons, as well as 12 cherished grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, all of whom continue to honor his legacy of service, strength, and devotion to family; and

WHEREAS, Philip Arsenault, Jr. was laid to rest in Germantown, New York, leaving behind a legacy defined by honor, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to his country and community; and

WHEREAS, The courage, dedication, and integrity demonstrated by Philip Arsenault, Jr. throughout his life and military service epitomize the highest ideals of citizenship and patriotism, reflecting great credit upon himself, his family, and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Philip Arsenault, Jr. posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, and to honor his distinguished life of service to his Nation and community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Philip Arsenault, Jr.