

Senate Resolution No. 2365

**BY:** Senator HINCHEY

**HONORING** Private First Class Alan Grant Blass 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 peace-time deserve a special salute from this esteemed Body; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Alan Grant Blass 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; and

**WHEREAS,** The Columbia County Honor a Veteran committee will be honoring PFC Alan Grant Blass on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Columbia County office building, 401 State St., Hudson, New York in the Supervisors Chambers; 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 July 4, 1946, to Roy B. and Anna (Van Allen) Blass in Chatham, New York, Alan Grant Blass grew up in Chatham and attended school in Chatham Central School District where he enjoyed golf, which he often played with his father at Winding Brook Country Club; and

**WHEREAS,** Alan Grant Blass enlisted in the United States Army in Albany, New York on October 11, 1963 and upon completing basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, Alan was assigned to the United States Army Training Center (USATC) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri on January 3, 1964; and

**WHEREAS,** For eight weeks, Private First Class (PFC) Alan Blass trained as a construction machine operator; he was then issued orders to report to the Co A, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division in South Korea; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1964, the 8th Engineer Battalion was a part of construction projects that included reinforced concrete bunkers, 48-foot steel stringer bridges, Bailey bridges and large culverts in very difficult conditions and terrain; PFC Alan Blass' unit sponsored the Pak-Ai Orphanage with money, clothing, and school supplies; and

**WHEREAS,** In late October of 1964, PFC Alan Blass' parents received a

telegram informing them that he had died at 11:45 in the morning on October 30, 1964, while operating a diesel loader scoop that overturned and pinned him down at a firing range in Korea; and

**WHEREAS**, PFC Alan Blass' remains were returned on November 6, 1964, and transported to the French Funeral Home in Chatham; services were held at the Chatham Methodist Church and he received full military honors from an Honor Guard from West Point and his remains were interred in the Chatham Rural Cemetery; and

**WHEREAS**, For his courageous service, PFC Alan Blass was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, and the Sharpshooters Badge w/ Rifle Bar; he was also a communicant and Youth Fellowship member of the Chatham Methodist Church, Boy Scouts Troop III and the Winding Brook Country Club; and

**WHEREAS**, PFC Alan Blass was only 18 years old and left behind his parents Anna and Roy; and two sisters Donna and Cheryl; 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 honor Alan Grant Blass 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 Alan Grant Blass.