

Assembly Resolution No. 1066

BY: M. of A. Tannousis

HONORING Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis posthumously upon receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor and his induction into the Hall of Heroes

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 honor Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis posthumously upon receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor at a special ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Monday, March 2, 2026; and

WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis, of New Dorp, Staten Island, New York, was killed on August 28, 2013, during a Taliban attack on Forward Operating Base Ghazni while serving with Bushmaster Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division; and

WHEREAS, During the assault, Michael H. Ollis placed himself between a suicide bomber and a Polish allied officer, shielding the officer from the full force of the explosion and sacrificing his own life; witnesses have said that his actions not only saved the life of the officer but also helped preserve the lives of more than 40 military and civilian personnel on the base; and

WHEREAS, Michael H. Ollis was committed to joining the United States Army, and at the age of 17, he took the first step in fulfilling his lifelong dream by joining the Delayed Entry Program; after a few months, he officially entered the United States Army on August 3, 2006, and underwent initial military training at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Michael H. Ollis's parents, Robert and Linda Ollis, who delivered remarks to the individuals at the ceremony; and

WHEREAS, One day after receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor, Michael H. Ollis was recognized at the Pentagon and inducted into the Hall of Heroes; and

WHEREAS, The Hall of Heroes is a room in the Pentagon dedicated to those esteemed service members who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for bravery that can be awarded to members of America's armed forces for exceptional acts of valor; the room, which opened in 1968, displays the names of every person to receive this medal since the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The induction ceremony, hosted at the Pentagon on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, was attended by the Ollis family, as well as the families of the two other Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; and

WHEREAS, At the ceremony, the Secretary of the Army presented Robert and Linda Ollis with a Medal of Honor flag, framed Medal of Honor Citation, and photo; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being inducted into the Hall of Heroes, Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis's name is inscribed on the Medal of Honor Garden Wall at the National Museum of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Exhibiting his patriotism and demonstrating his love for his country, Michael H. Ollis merits forevermore the highest respect of his 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 honor Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis posthumously upon receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor and his induction into the Hall of Heroes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Staff Sergeant Michael H. Ollis.