

Assembly Resolution No. 1196

**BY:** M. of A. Maher

**COMMEMORATING** the 4th Annual Honor Flight Day in  
the State of New York

**WHEREAS**, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so faithfully and courageously in wars in which our Nation's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace during peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

**WHEREAS**, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

**WHEREAS**, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 4th Annual Honor Flight Day in the State of New York, to be observed on Wednesday, April 22, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, Honor Flights are an opportunity to recognize and thank the Americans who secured our freedom by bringing them to the Nation's capital to see the memorials that commemorate their service, giving them a hero's welcome every step of the way; and

**WHEREAS**, Established in 2005 by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse, Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization composed of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission; our Nation's meritorious veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to this vital non-profit organization; and

**WHEREAS**, In the State of New York, this noble mission is advanced through the dedicated efforts of numerous regional Honor Flight hubs, including Big Apple Honor Flight, Honor Flight Long Island, Hudson Valley Honor Flight, Patriot Flight Albany, Leatherstocking Honor Flight, Honor Flight Syracuse, Twin Tiers Honor Flight, North Country Honor Flight, Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight, and Honor Flight Rochester, whose volunteers and supporters work tirelessly to ensure that veterans from every corner of the State are afforded the opportunity to participate in these meaningful journeys; and

**WHEREAS**, Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, Currently, Honor Flight Network commends those who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and veterans of any service era who are critically ill; and

**WHEREAS**, Each year, the Honor Flight Network helps make it possible

for about 22,500 veterans to travel to Washington D.C.; since its inception, more than 330,000 veterans from all services from more than 130 locations across the country have taken the flight; and

**WHEREAS,** In New York State alone, more than 6,000 members of our armed services have fulfilled their wish of visiting our Nation's capital and all its sites and memorials honoring our country's great history; and

**WHEREAS,** The success of the Honor Flight Network is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Interim Chief Executive Officer Marion Watkins and her staff and volunteers, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the institution and the community it serves; and

**WHEREAS,** Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these brave men and women of our military have demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their State and Nation; 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 commemorate the 4th Annual Honor Flight Day in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Marion Watkins, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Honor Flight Network.