

BY: M. of A. Blankenbush

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 4, 2026, as 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum
Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Fort Drum is located in Jefferson County, in Northern New York, and is the largest military installation in the Northeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum, previously known as Pine Camp, was renamed in honor of Lieutenant General Hugh Drum, a decorated national hero, former commander of First Army, and an early leader of the State's own volunteer militia, the New York Guard; and

WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Fort Drum has been the home of the United States Army's storied 10th Mountain Division, one of the most deployed divisions in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Members of the 10th Mountain Division have served our nation with honor, distinction, and great sacrifice as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom and other actions central to our nation's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Elements of the 10th Mountain Division, based on Fort Drum, were the first to be deployed in the aftermath of those attacks and the last units to return from combat duty; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Operation Enduring Freedom, the 10th Mountain Division deployments have included Hurricane Andrew Relief in Florida, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Task Force Eagle in Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Freedom Sentinel in Afghanistan, and advise and assist operations throughout the World; and

WHEREAS, The storied 10th Mountain Division (Alpine) that deployed unique and unprecedented mountain warfare skills, breaking the gothic line in World War II, was inactivated in 1945, and the current 10th Mountain Division (LI) reactivated at Fort Drum in 1985; we proudly mark the 41st Anniversary of this Division, once again, standing up to meet emerging requirements for the defense of our nation as Light Infantry, soldiers who rapidly deploy with what they can carry on their backs, answering the call of our nation, built on a proud legacy and adding to it as one of the Army's most deployed units; and

WHEREAS, We also commemorate the 81st Anniversary of the historic Battle of Riva Ridge, a key and remarkable victory during World War II in February 1945, when the Soldier-mountaineers first started the Division's "Climb to Glory" with extraordinary bravery, tactical ingenuity, skill and endurance, securing victory and starting irreversible momentum that resulted in the liberation of Italy; and

WHEREAS, More than 300 brave men and women of the 10th Mountain Division have given their lives to the cause of defeating global terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Distinguished service of units assigned to Fort Drum have been celebrated by Presidents, members of Congress, and members of the international community; and

WHEREAS, Four heroes serving with the 10th Mountain Division, Private First Class John D. Magrath, Sergeant First Class Jared C. Monti, Captain William D. Swenson, and Staff Sergeant Travis W. Atkins have received our military's highest honor, the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its vital role in our nation's defense, Fort Drum is also the largest employer in Northern New York, the State's largest single-site employer, and an economic engine for the State and region; the Fort has a total impact of \$1.9 billion; and

WHEREAS, A special bond exists between Fort Drum and the civilian communities surrounding it; the 33,000 soldiers and family members of the installation are an integral part of the North Country who not only are considered defenders of our freedom, but also our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friends, and fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to salute the soldiers and officers of the 10th Mountain Division, to honor their dedication to preserving our freedom and our Nation, and to recognize their individual and collective contributions to our communities and to New York State; and

WHEREAS, For more than 10 years, the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day has served to educate members of this Legislative Body about the sacrifices made every day by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, as well as the importance of Fort Drum to our nation's defense and New York's economy; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum has and will continue to play a critical role in ensuring our nation's military readiness to defend our state and nation against hostility and threats to our safety and national security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim Monday, May 4, 2026, as 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, Major General Gregory Anderson, Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division, and Fort Drum.