

2013-K707

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War, and paying tribute to the valiant service displayed by the members of the United States Armed Forces

WHEREAS, Thousands of military personnel from the great State of New York have served their country faithfully and courageously, with dedication and sacrifice, and are due the praise and just recognition of this Legislative Body for their role in defense of our nation's liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end the Korean War, and to pay tribute to the valiant service displayed by the members of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, the United States, North Korea and China signed an armistice to end the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, In response to a June 27, 1950, United Nations resolution calling for assistance for the Republic of Korea (South Korea), President Harry S. Truman ordered American air and naval forces activated and, on June 30, 1950, committed United States ground forces to the Korean battle zone; and

WHEREAS, The fighting lasted three years; during the 37-month period, more than 54,000 Americans died; 33,651 were killed in action; there were 103,000 Americans wounded; 8,177 missing in action; and 7,000 prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, The death toll included 2,249 New Yorkers, with another 6,530 wounded; and

WHEREAS, The Korean War was the first direct conflict of the Cold War between United States and communist forces; and

WHEREAS, The Korean War was the first deployment of United States

troops to a combat zone to contain communist aggression; stemming the spread of communism was a foreign policy goal during the Cold War; and WHEREAS, Korea was the first war that saw a United Nations coalition; and

WHEREAS, The Korean War is referred to as the "forgotten war" because it came on the heels of World War II and was overshadowed by the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The term "Freedom is not free" is part of the National Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated on June 25, 1990, the 40th Anniversary of the start of the war; four New Yorkers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military medal; and

WHEREAS, The memorial is located at the Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York; it features a pool surrounded by bronze plaques of flags representing the 16 nations that sent combat troops to Korea; adjacent to the pool is a semi-circular wall with three plaques offering a narrative of the war and statistical information on state residents who served, including casualties; a map of North and South Korea shows the 38th parallel and the location of the key battles; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense and presence of this Legislative Body, acting on behalf of the citizens of this Empire State, to act now, with great respect and reverent esteem, in honoring the members of the United States Armed Service who have served their State and Nation so valiantly and honorably in the defense of freedom and democracy during the Korean conflict; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end

the Korean War, and to pay tribute to the valiant service displayed by the members of the United States Armed Forces, renewing its tribute to the men and women of New York State who served so faithfully and coura-

geously on behalf of their State and Nation; and be it further
RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Mr. Salvatore Scalato Department of New York Korean War Veterans Association, and The Korean War Veterans National Museum (KWNM) Library and Cultural Center, Springfield, Illinois.