

2013-J2708

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Colonel Paul J. Sweeney upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 29 years of distinguished and honorable service

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to honor and acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives, military service and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, For the past 29 years, Colonel Paul J. Sweeney has rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable military service to the United States Marine Corps and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Colonel Paul J. Sweeney upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Marine Corps after 29 years of distinguished and honorable service; he officially retired on July 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Graduating with a B.A. degree from Fordham University in 1984, Colonel Sweeney received his J.D. degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Sweeney joined Coughlin & Gerhart, L.L.P. in 1992, following active duty as a Marine Corps judge advocate; he is a partner in the firm and a member of the firm's management committee; he also co-chairs the firm's labor and employment law practice group; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Sweeney concentrates in labor and employment law and commercial litigation; he defends employers against liability, discrimination and disability claims and represents employers in contract negotiations, arbitration, discipline and other administrative proceedings; in addition, he represents clients in complex contract, construction and real estate disputes; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Sweeney is a member of the American, New York State, Broome County and Federal Court Bar Associations; he serves on the exec-

utive committee of the New York State Bar Association's labor and employment law section and is a trustee of the Northern District of New York - Federal Court Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Sweeney has been selected for inclusion in the BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA since 2012 and the Upstate Edition of NEW YORK SUPER LAWYERS since 2011; he is a bagpiper with the Broome County Celtic Pipes & Drums; and

WHEREAS, With more than 29 years of active duty and reserve service, Colonel Sweeney served on active duty as a criminal defense attorney and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney prior to joining the firm; as a reservist, he deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, with the I Marine Expeditionary Force; and

WHEREAS, In his last reserve billet, Colonel Sweeney was assigned to the Office of Counsel for the Commandant and served as the officer-in-charge of the Marine Reserve lawyers who supported the Commandant, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the DoD Office of General Counsel; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Sweeney's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and he received two of the Meritorious Service Medals; and

WHEREAS, In all his official acts, Colonel Sweeney has been governed by a sense of loyalty, duty and honor, that allowed him to be a natural leader; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Sheila, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his extraordinary and outstanding military career, Colonel Paul J. Sweeney has earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his friends, family and colleagues; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Colonel Paul J. Sweeney upon the occasion of his retirement from

the United States Marine Corps after 29 years of distinguished and honorable service to the United States Marine Corps and the Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel Paul J. Sweeney.