

## 2013-J3317

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Corporal Ken Charles Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding service to the military

WHEREAS, The courage and bravery of our military personnel since the United States Armed Forces commenced Operation Enduring Freedom will ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably during Operation Enduring Freedom, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, to honor Corporal Ken Charles Jr. of Wurtsboro, New York, upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding service to the military; he received this auspicious honor on June 7, 2013, after completing two tours in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the New York State Army National Guard 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion Alpha Company, Peekskill, New York, in August, 2013, Corporal Ken Charles Jr. attended SUNY Cobleskill; and

WHEREAS, This brave soldier, began basic training at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, in January of 2011, and was then transferred to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, At Fort Gordon, Corporal Ken Charles Jr. received extensive Advanced Individual Training of a classified nature in the field of Computer Network Administration and graduated in the top 10th percentile of his class in October of 2011; and

WHEREAS, His Battalion of 450 troops was deployed out of Stewart Air

Force Base on August 19, 2012, to Kandahar, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, During his first tour in Kandahar, Corporal Ken Charles Jr. gained both Security credentials and Network credentials from CompTIA, CISCO based courses; at this time he was promoted from Private First Class to Corporal; and

WHEREAS, After returning home in May, 2013, Corporal Ken Charles Jr. returned to Afghanistan in June of 2013, to complete his second tour; he was assigned to a Forward Operating Base, Azizulah, where, due to his expertise of computerized base operations, he was among four soldiers to staff the administration facility; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Ken Charles Jr.'s father and stepmother, Ken Sr. and Dottie, feel privileged and proud to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always, wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; 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, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Corporal Ken Charles Jr. upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding service to the military; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Corporal Ken Charles Jr.