

2013-J3489

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Retired Major James H. Delaune, United States Air Force, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Retired Major James "Jim" H. Delaune, United States Air Force, died on January 16, 2014, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 6, 1919, James H. Delaune was the son of the late James and Anita Delaune; and

WHEREAS, His early years were spent with his brother Raymond building model airplanes and urging his mother to take him to the local airfield to see up close the objects of his fascination - airplanes; and

WHEREAS, In 1937, James H. Delaune enlisted in the Army Air Corp, spending the next 30 years rising through the ranks of the United States Air Force to eventually achieve the honorable rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, James H. Delaune bravely flew as an air gunner and was considered a marksman; he was later trained by the OSS, the precursor to the CIA, to be a Counter Intelligence Officer; and

WHEREAS, James H. Delaune continued his service to his country as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts; he was stationed in numerous places such as Itazuke, Japan; Reykjavik, Iceland, and Stewart Air Force Base among many other installations; and

WHEREAS, During his career with the Air Force, he was awarded 13 patents for use by the Air Force; a number of these devices he designed were copied and used by the air forces of many foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, James Delaune further served his Nation by contributing a

number of early aviation related historic documents, objects and photos to The Smithsonian, and other national museums; and

WHEREAS, After retirement from the United States Air Force with the esteemed rank of Major, James Delaune was employed by the U.S. Civil Service as an Aircraft Propulsion System Engineer; while assigned to Presque Isle, Maine, he spent many hours on the lakes and streams fly fishing, which was his favorite hobby; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, Anita and James Delaune; brother, Raymond Delaune and nephew, Peter Delaune, James H. Delaune is survived by his wife of 69 years, Amy R. Delaune; son, James H. Delaune III and his wife, Sophie; daughter, Jeanine and husband, Dr. Thomas Glendening; and grandchildren Sean, Shar, and Michael; as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, James H. Delaune distinguished himself through his service, dedication and substantial contributions to his State and Nation; he leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Retired Major James Delaune, United States Air Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of James H. Delaune.