

## 2013-J3951

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the rededication of the Spirit of the American Doughboy statue in the Town of Castile, New York, on June 14, 2014

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York who have served valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is, furthermore, the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those communities that seek to restore and maintain historical monuments within the State of New York, and in so doing, help to ensure that the complete story of our State and nation is preserved and shared with present and future generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concerns, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the rededication of the Spirit of the American Doughboy statue in the Town of Castile, New York; a tremendous celebration will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2014, beginning with a military parade, and including music, distinguished speakers, and food; and

WHEREAS, On May 31, 1926, the Town of Castile dedicated a Spirit of the American Doughboy statue to honor the memory of soldiers who fought in World War I; and

WHEREAS, Designed by American sculptor E.M. Viquesney, the Spirit of the American Doughboy is a pressed copper sculpture that depicts a "doughboy," an informal term for a member of the United States Army or Marine Corps, walking through shattered tree stumps stung with barbed wire, his rifle in his left hand, and his left hand held high above his head clutching a hand grenade; and

WHEREAS, The Spirit of the American Doughboy statue design was the most popular memorial of its kind, and the Town of Castile, New York, was one of many communities throughout the United States to have purchased and erected this affecting monument during the 1920s and 1930s; the Smithsonian American Art Museum currently lists 159 locations; and

WHEREAS, The patriotic citizens of the Town of Castile, New York, particularly the Castile Historical Society and the Wallace Jeffers American Legion Post, have worked assiduously for more than two and a half years to raise the needed funds for the restoration and preservation of this historic treasure; and

WHEREAS, The Spirit of the American Doughboy statue serves as a fitting tribute to the men and women who have so courageously served in our armed forces in an effort to protect and preserve the cherished values of our nation; 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, as well as to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Our nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the rededication of the Spirit of the American Doughboy statue in the Town of Castile, New York, on June 14, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Town of Castile, New York.