

## 2013-K987

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York, in conjunction with the April 15th observance of Purple Up Day

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those young people within the great Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who serve as role models for their peers; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York, in conjunction with the April 15th observance of Purple Up Day; and

WHEREAS, The Operation: Military Kids (OMK) partnership is a shared initiative of the United States Army Child, Youth & School (CYS) Services funded by the Army National Guard and Army Reserve to benefit children and youth impacted by deployment by connecting them with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being; and

WHEREAS, This is achieved by increasing awareness of issues faced before, during and after deployment through education; and by creating a network of services and resources available locally for affected military children; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to three Active Duty Army installations, Fort Drum, West Point, and Fort Hamilton; Fort Drum houses the 10th Mountain Division with five brigades (19,000 Soldiers) and is the most deployed Army Division in the nation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, there are over 15,000 geographically dispersed National Guard and Reserve Soldiers and nearly 43,000 military children

living in New York, not on military installations; consequently, the need to provide these geographically dispersed Military Families with meaningful, comprehensive and effective family readiness and care has been identified and is the primary mission of OMK; and

WHEREAS, Military children make up a very special part of our nation's population; although young, these brave sons and daughters stand in steadfast support of their military parents through moves and deployments; to honor their unique contributions and sacrifices on behalf of our country, each April is designated the Month of the Military Child in the United States; and

WHEREAS, During April's Month of the Military Child, the Defense Department recognizes the support provided by and sacrifices made by military children; and

WHEREAS, Since 1983, DOD has recognized military children for the support they provide to their families; there are now 1.8 million children in the military system; military children, youth and teens are an integral part of their military parent because they stand by them, they are proud of them, they recognize their sacrifices, and they take on additional responsibilities to meet the needs of their families; and

WHEREAS, In April the United States Armed Forces proudly celebrates the Month of the Military Child, a month-long celebration thanking military children for their service and recognizing them for their strength, sacrifices, and hardships they face daily; and

WHEREAS, Purple is the color which symbolizes all branches of the military; when combined, Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue, make purple, consequently, April 15th has been adopted as "Purple Up Day"; and

WHEREAS, Military children exemplify the potential inherent in our most precious resource, our youth; they have brought enduring honor to their families and their communities through their many achievements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2014 as the Month of the Military Child in the State of New York, in conjunction with the April 15th observance of Purple Up Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.