

2013-J4698

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Louise McRoberts upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Louise McRoberts upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by a resolution in 2014 and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Of the thousands of troops who enlisted in the United States Armed Services during the Second World War, approximately 400,000 women served in the military in various capacities over the course of the war, many serving with medical units or as clerical aides; and

WHEREAS, Louise McRoberts of Windham, New York, had the distinction of serving in both capacities, first helping to care for the wounded returning stateside during the Battle of the Bulge, and later in Germany serving with General George S. Patton's Third Army weeks after the surrender of the Third Reich; and

WHEREAS, Born in Hollis, Queens, New York, on October 14, 1924, Louise McRoberts, the daughter of Erna and Henry Kading, was a teenager when the war began; she was too young to enlist, but after her brothers, cousins, and friends joined the Armed Forces as the war deepened, she joined the Women's Army Corps on her 20th birthday in 1944; and

WHEREAS, During her instruction at an Army camp in Georgia, although women were never assigned combat duties, Louise McRoberts's basic training was just as rigorous as that for men, with the same level of physical activity; and

WHEREAS, Soon after her training, Louise McRoberts was deployed to a medical unit, serving in a triage-type capacity as wounded Americans arrived by the thousands during the infamous Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, Louise McRoberts was stationed at Camp Shanks which holds the distinction of being the nation's largest embarkation point for troops being deployed overseas, including 75 percent of those involved in the D-Day invasions; at the time, it was dubbed "Last Stop USA"; for weeks and shifts which lasted for days, the soldiers continued to arrive at the medical unit where Louise McRoberts was assigned, sorting them for care at various medical facilities depending on the severity of their wounds; and

WHEREAS, By early May 1945, Germany had surrendered and Louise McRoberts was assigned to Patton's Third Army, special services; this duty would take her to Heidelberg, Germany, where she would handle postwar furloughs for GIs, and arrange for entertainment for the troops by hiring local musicians and actors for plays and concerts; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1945, Louise McRoberts was on her way to Germany when she heard the United States had dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan; the unit she was traveling with was briefly detained in

France; she observed much devastation, but was joyed hearing the war had ended; and

WHEREAS, Following her stint with the Army, Louise McRoberts married

her military sweetheart, Charles McRoberts, and together had two children; in 1963, the McRoberts moved to upstate New York; and WHEREAS, Louise McRoberts has remained active in her community and attends many military commemorative events; she has volunteered extensively to help others, and has worked with the Meals on Wheels program; in addition, she is active in reading for youth programs, is active in her church, and regularly attends VFW meetings; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Louise McRoberts was a Greene County veteran to enjoy one of the Honor Flights to the World War II memorial at Washington DC; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her husband and two children, Louise McRoberts is the proud grandmother of three grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; it is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay the highest tribute to the valiant service displayed by the members of the United States Armed Forces during that time of crisis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Louise McRoberts upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Louise McRoberts.