

## 2013-J4700

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Andrew Komonchak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Ruth & James Ottaway Medal by the Orange County Citizens Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Andrew Komonchak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Ruth & James Ottaway Medal by the Orange County Citizens Foundation, to be celebrated at the Foundation's Ottaway Medal Dinner on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at the Newburgh Armory Unity Center, Newburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Orange County Citizens Foundation is an organization dedicated to improving the lives of Orange County residents by bringing people together to preserve the county's environmental and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, The Ruth & James Ottaway Medal is given each year to individuals who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding service to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Komonchak has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Komonchak serves as the Executive Director of Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc., an organization he co-founded in order to raise funding for the expansion and enhancement of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York; he is committed to helping veterans and active duty military personnel receive the respect, honor

and recognition they deserve; and

WHEREAS, For many years, this esteemed man was the owner of ARK Graphics, a marketing and consulting company, active in helping numerous nonprofit organizations in the community; he is a single parent of four children; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Andrew Komonchak graduated from Leadership Orange, a professional leadership training program, where he would later serve as a board member; he began taking a more active role in civic life, serving on multiple boards and committees including the Orange County Arts Council, and the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Genuinely concerned with honoring those who have served our country, Andrew Komonchak organized an event in 2009 to honor the nation's Purple Heart Medal recipients; General David Petraeus served as keynote speaker, and over 1,200 people attended to recognize the recipients and kick off a capital campaign for the Purple Heart Hall of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Komonchak further contributed his time and energies to honor Purple Heart recipients, setting aside his own business to head a committee which has raised significant funds for the expansion of the Purple Heart Hall of Honor; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Andrew Komonchak organized a commemoration of Orange County Memorial Veterans Day, with a number of events recognizing the men and women of the United States armed forces who have served this nation so honorably; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; he became Chairman of the Orange County Citizens Foundation's Public Relations Committee, and also serves

on the Boards of Hudson Valley Honor Flight and the Research & Recognition Project; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Komonchak's efforts were instrumental in the success

of the Newburgh Armory's transformation into a community center; furthermore, he serves on the Stewart Air National Guard Military Affairs Committee and is a member of Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 NY; and WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Andrew Komonchak has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Andrew Komonchak upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2014 Ruth & James Ottaway Medal by the Orange County Citizens Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Andrew Komonchak.