

2013-J3997

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 18, 2014, as Fort Drum Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to support and promote the historic and significant achievements of Fort Drum and the United States Army 10th Mountain Division; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum is the largest Army post in the Northeastern United States, with 19,605 soldiers and 4,739 civilian workers; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum is the largest employer in Northern New York, with an economic impact on the North Country and the State of New York of \$1.6 billion; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum traces its roots to 1907 when the post was known as Camp Hughes, after New York Governor Charles Hughes, and later as Pine Camp, and was founded in 1951 as Camp Drum, in honor of Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum, who commanded the First Army during World War II, and eventually designated as Fort Drum in 1974; and

WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division, which earned honor during World War II, fighting in the mountains of Italy in some of the roughest terrain in the country, and which was renowned for its expertise in mountain and winter warfare, was reactivated at Fort Drum in 1985, as a rapid deployment combat light infantry unit, dispatched to trouble spots around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum continues to be home to the United States Army 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), which includes the most deployed combat brigade in the United States Army, with deployments to Operation Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia; Operation Restore Hope and Operation Continue Hope, Somalia; Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti; Operation Joint Forge (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Operation Joint Guardian, Kosovo, as well as hurricane relief efforts inside the United States; and

WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division's three combat brigades at Fort Drum have seen numerous deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, in fighting the nation's ongoing war against terror since September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division are commanded by Major General Stephen J. Townsend and a dedicated cadre of officers whose commitment to our nation and our troops is exemplary; and

WHEREAS, Major General Townsend and his command headquarters are currently deployed in Afghanistan and the 10th Mountain Division is expected to be among the last military forces to leave that country in 2014; and

WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division, throughout its operational history, has been awarded six campaign streamers, including two campaign streamers in World War II and four campaign streamers in the War on Terrorism, as well as two unit decorations; and

WHEREAS, A total of seven soldiers posted to Fort Drum and its predecessors are recipients of the nation's highest military honor for valor, the Medal of Honor, including two members of the 10th Mountain Division, Pfc. John D. Magrath, for his actions at Castel d'Aiano, Italy during World War II and Sfc. Jared Monti who received the medal posthumously in 2009, for his heroism in Kunar Province, Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, and who is one of just six Medal of Honor recipients since 2001 and the start of the global war on terror; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of New York men and women have passed through Fort Drum, as members of our Armed Forces, the Army, National Guard and Reserves, showing service, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment and

living up to the 10th Mountain Division motto "Climb to Glory"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 18, 2014, as Fort

Drum Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Major General Stephen J. Townsend, Commanding General of Fort Drum, and the 10th Mountain Division.