

2013-J5032

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Kathryn Simmons, posthumously, upon the occasion of her induction into the Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, Individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing tradition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Kathryn Simmons, posthumously, upon the occasion of her induction into the Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame; her outstanding and pioneering accomplishments were recognized on Sunday, October 13, 2013, at the 2013 Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet, which was held at the Erie Trackside Manor in Port Jervis, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame annually recognizes individuals who have achieved personal success and have made a significant contribution to society, serving as role models to inspire current and future generations of Port Jervis students; and

WHEREAS, The late Kathryn Simmons, Class of 1938, was a woman before her time; upon graduation from high school, she earned a nursing degree from St. Catherine's Hospital School of Nursing in Brooklyn, New York and, in 1942, shortly after Pearl Harbor, was one of the patriotic young women who responded to the nation's call for military nurses; and

WHEREAS, Kathryn Simmons' service in the Navy Nurse Corps included a tour of duty at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; the World War II veteran was one the first women in the State of New York and the country allowed to become a member of a VFW post, as well as the first, and only, female veteran to serve as Captain of the VFW Tri-State Naval Ship in Port Jervis; and

WHEREAS, After serving with honor in World War II, Kathryn Simmons cared for tuberculosis patients at the former Otisville Sanatorium, and worked as an operating room and obstetrics nurse at the former St. Francis Hospital in Port Jervis; and

WHEREAS, Possessed of an adventurous spirit, Kathryn Simmons also took flight lessons, which is where she met her future husband, the late David Simmons, Jr.; the couple married in 1947 and spent the rest of their lives in Port Jervis, raising their four sons and working for the betterment of the community; and

WHEREAS, Kathryn Simmons was an avid volunteer; she, along with her husband, was instrumental in the formation of the Port Jervis Little League and Pop Warner League, and she was a den leader, President of the Parent Teacher's Association, and a member of the Catholic Daughters of America; in addition, she served as President of the Port Jervis School District Board of Education and vice president of the Orange-Ulster BOCES Board, working tirelessly throughout her 15 years on both boards on behalf of special needs children; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional woman was honored for her many contributions; Orange-Ulster BOCES named a section of its special education building in her honor, and after her death, the Tri-States Naval Ship VFW established a scholarship at Port Jervis High School in her name; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those individuals who enhanced the well-being and vitality of their community and demonstrated a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Kathryn Simmons, posthumously, upon the occasion of her induction into the Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the family of Kathryn Simmons.