

2013-J4491

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, New York, upon the occasion of its participation in the observance of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, in Normandy, France, including a "Return to Normandy Mission" with its restored World War II plane "Whiskey 7"

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved with great respect and reverent esteem to pay tribute to the men and women who so courageously and heroically serve and have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Members and former members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peace-time, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, New York, upon the occasion of its participation in the observance of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, in Normandy, France, including a "Return to Normandy Mission" with its restored World War II plane "Whiskey 7"; and

WHEREAS, D-Day, June 6, 1944, began the start of the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, and resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control; and

WHEREAS, On D-Day, over 156,000 American, British, and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50 mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region; by late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans; and

WHEREAS, The National Warplane Museum, founded in 1994, is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, display, and flight of aircraft of the World War II and Korean War eras, as well as the recognition of all United States military personnel for their service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The Return to Normandy Mission will honor the members of the greatest generation who served their country during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Whiskey 7 is a World War II-era Douglas C-47 airplane which is housed at the National Warplane Museum; it was the lead ship of the 37th Troop Carrier Squadron, which dropped elements of the 82nd Airborne Division near St. Mere Eglise, France, in the early hours of June 6, 1944, D-Day; and

WHEREAS, At the invitation of the French government, Whiskey 7 will participate in the 70th Anniversary commemorations by dropping members of the Liberty Jump Team over the original D-Day drop zones at St. Mere Eglise, France; and

WHEREAS, Whiskey 7, the only C-47 flying in the D-Day commemorations from the United States, will fly to France by way of Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Scotland, and Germany, each leg approximately 5 1/2 to 7 hours; and

WHEREAS, The Whiskey 7 Flight Crew is comprised of: Captain Christopher Clyde Pohlhemus, Chief Pilot, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania; Captain John Stewart Lindsay, Pilot, Freeport, Pennsylvania; Captain Naomi Wolcott Wadsworth, Pilot, Geneseo, New York; Michael Alvin Lindsay, Crew Chief, Castile, New York; and Craig Perkins Wadsworth, Chief of Maintenance, Geneseo, New York; and

WHEREAS, Leslie P. Cruise, one of the original 21 members of the paratrooper team that jumped from Whiskey 7 on D-Day, will participate in the celebration in Normandy, France; he raised the American flag at St. Mere Eglise, France, during its liberation on D-Day and will once again proudly raise the Stars and Stripes during the 70th Anniversary observance ceremony at the Iron Mike Monument in St. Mere Eglise, France; and

WHEREAS, Leslie P. Cruise will also be presented with the French Legion of Honor Medal by Mayor Jacque Laurent in Quiniville, France; and WHEREAS, The National Warplane Museum will be presenting French officials at the celebration with a New York State flag, which was flown over the New York State Capitol Building on January 30, 2014, from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's office on behalf of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This solemn and auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to remember, honor and pay tribute to the men and women who so courageously and heroically served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, New York, upon the occasion of its participation in the observance of the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in June 2014, in Normandy, France, including a "Return to Normandy Mission" with its restored World War II plane "Whiskey 7"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, New York, and Leslie P. Cruise.