

2013-J5172

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh upon the occasion of his retirement after 20 years of distinguished service as Onondaga County Sheriff

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens who would devote themselves to public service protection, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Within every community of the State of New York there are certain individuals who, by virtue of their commitment and dedication, command the respect and admiration of their community for their exemplary contributions and service on behalf of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh upon the occasion of his retirement after 20 years of distinguished service as Onondaga County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, Kevin E. Walsh was raised in Skaneateles, New York, and attended college at SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Kevin E. Walsh entered the United States Army serving as a military policeman in Korea and Germany, and later as a helicopter door gunner on more than 250 combat missions in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with nine clusters; and

WHEREAS, Following his military service, Kevin E. Walsh joined the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in 1966 as a deputy sheriff, where he subsequently held several high-profile positions including: Detective Commander, Director of the Police Academy, and Commander of the Northern Police District; he was credited with founding the Sheriff's Office Abused Persons Unit, and the Rape Prevention Program, prior to retiring

as Captain in 1986; and

WHEREAS, From 1986 to 1994, Kevin E. Walsh served as Director of Public Safety at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, during which time he was elected to the Onondaga County Legislature serving three terms, and as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee from 1990 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, Kevin E. Walsh was elected Onondaga County Sheriff in November 1994, and over the course of his career, oversaw many important changes to the department including: the transition from the Public Safety Building Jail to the state-of-the-art Onondaga County Justice Center, educational programming for inmates, community policing, expansion of the DARE program, and Sheriff bicycle patrols; and

WHEREAS, Kevin E. Walsh also founded the Air-1-Task Force, which led to the replacement of an aging airship with a state-of-the-art helicopter which provided valuable services in law enforcement, fire and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as Onondaga County Sheriff, Kevin E. Walsh oversaw many high profile investigations including: John Jamelske's underground dungeon, the Stacy Castor murder case, the Jenni Lynn Watson investigation, and the traffic stop taser incident in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, as an active member of the community, Kevin E. Walsh has served as a volunteer at the Rape Crisis Center, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Onondaga Citizens League, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, St. Rose of Lima Church, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and as an adjunct faculty member at Keuka Community College; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Kevin E. Walsh's numerous professional affiliations have included the New York State Law Enforcement Training

Directors Association, E-911 Advisory Committee, the National Sheriff's Association, and the Criminal Justice Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Kevin E. Walsh will officially retire on Wednesday, December

31, 2014, as Onondaga County's longest serving Sheriff, having served five terms in the position; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Kevin E. Walsh resides in North Syracuse, New York, with his wife, Joan, a former emergency room nurse, and the couple has three adult children, Shannon, Kelly and Kevin; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that those dedicated public servants, who unselfishly devote their lives to the preservation of order and the protection of others, are worthy of praise for their commitment and noble endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh upon the occasion of his retirement after more than 20 years of distinguished service as Onondaga County Sheriff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh.