

2013-J5202

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Purple Heart Homes, and its co-founders Dale Beatty and John Gallina for their dedicated service to the veterans in their community and the State of New York

WHEREAS, 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 peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Purple Heart Homes, and its co-founders Dale Beatty and John Gallina for their dedicated service to the veterans in their community and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dale Beatty and John Gallina were deployed in January 2004, for a tour with the National Guard Readiness NCO for the Statesville Unit; and

WHEREAS, Both were deployed to Iraq in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where their unit was attached directly to the 1st Infantry Division near Bayji, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, On November 15, 2004, while on a patrol route highly littered with active insurgent operations, the vehicle Dale Beatty was riding in was hit by antitank mines; the explosion was so severe, it left him a double amputee below the knees; and

WHEREAS, Dale Beatty spent over a year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center learning how to walk using prosthetic legs; when he returned home, there were no ramps, elevations, wide doorways or roll-in showers,

all of which contribute to making his life as an amputee truly a challenge; and

WHEREAS, The Iredell Homes Builders Association and many members from the community from Statesville, North Carolina as well as surrounding areas, in an outpouring of support, built a specially adapted barrier free home for the Beatty family; and

WHEREAS, As a result of all the support from his community, Dale Beatty and his fellow soldier John Gallina wanted to help other Service Connected Disabled Veterans with their housing solutions; together they co-founded Purple Heart Homes with funds from their disability checks to help veterans and their caregivers who served in the military; and

WHEREAS, Their journey together is one of friendship, service, courage and leadership; their shared experiences have created a strong sense of community and have instilled in them a humanitarian spirit to give back and make a difference in the lives of Service Connected Disabled Veterans of all conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the Purple Heart Homes organization is made up of volunteers and professionals who share a common belief and a common desire to give back to those who have given so much for their country; and

WHEREAS, Purple Heart Homes offers two distinct programs for Service Connected Disabled Veterans and their caregivers of all conflicts, the Veterans Aging in Place and the Veteran Home Ownership programs; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Aging in Place Program is specifically designed to help older Service Connected Disabled Veterans and their caregivers who currently own their own home; and

WHEREAS, The Veteran Home Ownership Program is specifically designed to enable Service Connected Disabled Veterans who do not already own a home, become homeowners; and

WHEREAS, The goal of both programs is to help reintegrate veterans into the community in which they live, and to proudly acknowledge the

sacrifice they have made on their country's behalf; and

WHEREAS, Whether it is adapting an already owned home, building a home from the ground up, or adapting and modifying a foreclosed home, Purple Heart Homes is committed to guiding the veteran through the entire process; and

WHEREAS, The ultimate goal of Purple Heart Homes is to empower the veteran, giving him or her a full complement of skill sets which enables them to be a functioning member of their family, as well as a contributing member of their community; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, Dale Beatty and John Gallina have demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their State and Nation; 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 honor Purple Heart Homes, and its co-founders Dale Beatty and John Gallina for their dedicated service to the veterans in their community and the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dale Beatty and John Gallina.