

2013-J5275

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Long Island University Post Campus upon the occasion of the Commissioning of the Admiral Richard L. Conolly American Legion Post 2014 on May 28, 2014

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those exemplary institutions of higher education within the State of New York who distinguish themselves in their enduring commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence and in their dedication to meeting the needs of our Nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Long Island University Post Campus upon the occasion of the Commissioning of the Admiral Richard L. Conolly American Legion Post 2014; this auspicious event will take place Wednesday, May 28, 2014, on the LIU Post campus; and

WHEREAS, The celebration will feature national and New York State American Legion leaders, and Lt. Commander Jay Conolly, Admiral Richard L. Conolly's great-grandson; in addition, the college will recognize veteran-students: Michael Knauer, Post Commander; Vice Commanders Dan Potenzieri, Ashley Clay, and Matt Gabriel; as well as Post Treasurer Olatokunbo Oke, and Chaplain Julio Hernandez; and

WHEREAS, Long Island University Post Campus (LIU Post) has a proud history of supporting America's veterans, beginning in 1954 when the campus was first established to serve the growing suburban communities that quickly became populated with veterans seeking to advance their education through the GI Bill; it is a nationally recognized "Yellow

Ribbon" institution, providing scholarship assistance, health and wellness services, academic support and many other services to veteran-students; and

WHEREAS, The Admiral Richard L. Conolly American Legion Post 2014, which will serve student veterans, their families and colleagues, is one of the few campus-based American Legion posts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, This new post is named for Admiral Richard L. Conolly, LIU Post's first President, and one of the United States' top military leaders; and

WHEREAS, In his distinguished military career, Admiral Richard L. Conolly gained the nickname "Close-In Conolly" from his insistence that fire support ships should be extremely close to the beach during amphibious assaults; awarded the Navy Cross, he was the naval representative to the 1946 Paris Peace Conference, commanded the United States Twelfth Fleet from September 1946 until January 1947, and then U.S. Naval Forces Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 1947 until 1950; and

WHEREAS, Admiral Richard L. Conolly's last assignment was as President of the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island, from 1950 to 1953; he retired with the rank of Admiral in November 1953, and was then the president of Long Island University until 1962; and

WHEREAS, On March 1, 1962, Admiral Richard L. Conolly and his wife, Helen B. Conolly, were passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 1, which crashed into Jamaica Bay soon after take-off from Idlewild Airport, New York City, killing all 95 passengers and crew aboard; he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, The ship USS Conolly (DD-979), a Spruance-class destroyer, was named for Admiral Richard Lansing Conolly; it served in every theater of naval operations until it was scuttled in training exercises in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which our Veterans served their country, and must recognize that no

greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we pay tribute to those institutions which, in the creation, implementation and long-term maintenance of programs and initiatives that advance the best possible interests of veterans and their families, demonstrate the heartfelt appreciation and gratitude shared by all New Yorkers for their dedication and sacrifice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Long Island University Post Campus upon the occasion of the Commissioning of the Admiral Richard L. Conolly American Legion Post 2014 on May 28, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Admiral Richard L. Conolly American Legion Post 2014.