

2013-J5785

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Lillian Lorraine Yonally upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as a distinguished Veteran on June 10, 2014

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, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lillian Lorraine Yonally upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as a distinguished Veteran, to be celebrated on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at the Albany County Office Building, Albany, New York; and

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, Lillian Lorraine Yonally honorably served from 1943 to 1944, in the United States Women Air Force Service Pilots, a military program known as WASPs; one of approximately 1,100 young women, the program trained civilian volunteers to fly planes stateside to ensure men could report overseas for combat duty; and

WHEREAS, The women were required to have previous flight experience and they were stationed at 120 Army bases within the United States; and

WHEREAS, With a passion for flying planes, Lillian Lorraine Yonally reported for training in Texas at the age of 21; upon completion of this training, she began flying planes such as PT-19s, BT-15s, AT-6s, and

B-13s, B-15s, and B-25s; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, as part of her duties, Lillian Lorraine Yonally towed targets behind her plane to enable gunners to practice, using live ammunition; and

WHEREAS, The groundbreaking WASP program ended after just two years due to male civilian pilots lobbying for their job, but not before Lillian Lorraine Yonally and these other notable young women proved that they could fly; and

WHEREAS, Lillian Lorraine Yonally has truly embraced her role in the WASPs, traveling around the country to speak of her role in the war effort; she also received the auspicious Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony on Capitol Hill in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women 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, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit forevermore, the highest respect of their State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is very pleased to have this opportunity to express its gratitude to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces for their tremendous sacrifices made for our Nation and for the benefit of all Americans; 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 Lillian Lorraine Yonally upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as a distinguished Veteran on June 10, 2014; and be

it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lillian Lorraine Yonally.