

2013-J5845

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Arnold Townsend upon the occasion of his 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 Arnold Townsend upon the occasion of his 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, Arnold Townsend honorably served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) from 1940 to 1946; he transferred to Marine Reserve in 1946 and joined the Marine Corps League in 1950; in 2005, he received his discharge from the USMC, giving him 65 years as an active or reserve Marine; and

WHEREAS, When Arnold Townsend joined the USMC in 1940, the total strength of the Marine Corps was approximately 20,000; in late 1940, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Brigade at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; their mission at this time was to protect the Caribbean from the Germans who were already at war with our allies in Europe; and

WHEREAS, In March of 1942, Arnold Townsend's regiment was deployed to defend the Solomon Islands; in August of the same year, the Marines went to Guadalcanal for the first of what would be 78 amphibious operations in the Pacific Theater over the next 28 months; the Guadalcanal campaign lasted approximately six months and the fighting there was fierce and continuous; and

WHEREAS, After 27 months overseas, Lieutenant Arnold Townsend was sent to Intel School at Camp Richie; three months later he went to Guam to join the Marine Division working in intelligence for the invasion of Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, Today, at the age of 94, Arnold Townsend serves as Judge Advocate of the Capt. William Dale O'Brien Marine Corps League Detachment; 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 Arnold Townsend upon the occasion of his 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 Arnold Townsend.