

## 2015-J382

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ernest LaBaff upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ernest LaBaff upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by a resolution in 2014 and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in the North Country, Ernest LaBaff, affectionately known as Ernie, honorably served the United States as a Medic in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Ernest LaBaff truly exemplifies dignity in work; he was employed at Alcoa in Massena, New York, for nearly 50 years, and is best known for his work as a union leader at the aluminum plants where he rose to become the President of the Aluminum, Brick & Glass Workers International Union; his leadership of that union affected the working conditions of workers all across the United States; and

WHEREAS, In his retirement, Ernest LaBaff has continued his efforts on behalf of the aluminum industry in Massena by leading local efforts to ensure Alcoa's low cost power contract was extended 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Ernest LaBaff has been a union and civic leader for decades, dedicating his life to improving the working conditions for workers across the country, and creating a climate that would encourage the creation of jobs for the next generation of workers; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, and their five children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Individuals such as Ernest LaBaff, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ernest LaBaff upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ernest LaBaff.