

## 2015-K529

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Reverend William Walter for his ceaseless dedication to his community on May 19, 2015

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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of true purpose and worthy accomplishment who foster community pride and strive to preserve their cultural heritage, thereby enhancing the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of community throughout this Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Reverend William Walter for his ceaseless dedication to his community on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the Union Springs American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Reverend William Walter has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Born January 16, 1924 in the area of South Otselic, New York, Reverend William Walter graduated from high school in 1943, before honorably serving in the United States Army during the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, During this time, on June 6, 1944, Reverend William Walter participated in the Normandy invasion of Europe as part of "Omaha Red," traveling from the shores of Normandy to the city of Berlin; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his valiant military service, Reverend William Walter was called to the Methodist Church; he graduated from

Lycoming College in 1952, and received his Masters of Sacred Theology from Duke University in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Reverend William Walter began his illustrious career in 1963 when he joined the Otselic Valley Masonic Lodge No. 659 in Cincinnatus, New York, and has been active in Masonry ever since; he was appointed Grand Chaplain of the renowned Grand Masonic Lodge of New York in 1995; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the same year, Reverend William Walter was appointed Chairman of the Custodians of the Work; in this capacity he served as one of only seven men to oversee all of the Masonic ritual; today, this esteemed man serves both important positions as an Emeritus member; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Reverend William Walter has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 60 years, Carolyn, and their six children, Carolyn, Nelson, David, Jonathan, Helen and Anna, as well as their 14 grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Reverend William Walter has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Reverend William Walter for his ceaseless dedication to his community on May 19, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Reverend William Walter.