

## 2015-J2434

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Captain John J. Levulis of Eden, New York, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to memorialize and honor the courage and bravery of members of the United States Armed Forces who have lost their lives while carrying out missions to ensure our continued role as a nation which embodies the ideals of democracy and as a defender of liberty for people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body mourns the untimely death of Captain John J. Levulis of Eden, New York, and pays tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Captain John J. Levulis was one of four soldiers injured on May 1, 2015, when their Humvee, part of a convoy en route to Fort Dix, New Jersey, was hit by a car; on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at the age of 25, this valiant man died from his injuries; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant John J. Levulis was posthumously promoted to the esteemed rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, A native of Eden, New York, John J. Levulis served as a member of his school government and participated in Boy Scouts, where he earned every badge possible; for his Eagle Scout project, he worked on the Veterans Memorial at the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, John J. Levulis, graduated from Eden High School in 2008, where he played both basketball and lacrosse; he went on to graduate summa cum laude from Niagara University, where he participated in the ROTC Program; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, John J. Levulis was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant; in this capacity, he served a tour of duty in Afghan-

istan in 2014, holding the position of Infantry Platoon Leader with the 10th Mountain Division, stationed at Fort Drum, New York; and WHEREAS, Lieutenant John J. Levulis' fellow platoon members in Afghanistan called themselves "The Avengers," and gave their leader the nickname of "Captain America"; at his funeral, friends and family members wore small Captain America shields pinned to their chests and a large version adorned the lectern in honor of the young man whose dream was to serve his country and community; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his brief military career, Captain John J. Levulis was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his dedicated service to his beloved country including the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Afghanistan campaign medal, NATO campaign medal, Airborne Wings and the Meritorious Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Captain John J. Levulis will always be remembered for his fierce devotion and loyalty to his wife and family, his dedication to his treasured homeland, and his steadfast work ethic; he lived by his credo of "Do your best. Work hard. Be respectful. Show up. Do the right thing, and sometimes, 'Kwitcher bellyaching'."; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by both of his grandfathers, Ralph Ranney and Alfred Levulis, Captain John J. Levulis is survived by his beloved wife, the former Julianne N. Viviano; his devoted parents, Gary and Barbara Levulis; an adoring brother, James T. Levulis; two cherished grandmothers, Shirley Ranney, and Dorothy Levulis; and father and mother-in-law, Joseph A. and Diane Viviano; as well as brother-in-law Joseph P. Viviano; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which our men and women served this country, and must recognize

that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who give of their lives for their beloved Nation; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, John J. Levulis leaves

behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Captain John J. Levulis of Eden, New York, and paying tribute to his courageous actions as a member of the United States Army; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Captain John J. Levulis.