

2015-K778

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Private Leonard Post Jr. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6251 for its steadfast and unwavering dedication to the Cheektowaga, New York community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and support the purposeful cause of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States of America, recognizing its long and sustained commitment to the principles of democracy and freedom so revered by this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Private Leonard Post Jr. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6251 for its steadfast and unwavering dedication to the Cheektowaga, New York community; and

WHEREAS, There are more than two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its auxiliaries located in approximately 8,000 Posts worldwide; founded in 1899, this vital organization assists all veterans and their families in obtaining veterans entitlements and other services; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the VFW works for the well-being of those serving on active duty, in the National Guard and the Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post No. 6251 of Cheektowaga, New York, has served the needs of local veterans and their families, the local community, and the strength, power and influence of its national organization for nearly 70 years; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Post, Jr. of Cheektowaga, New York, was one of the first Walden area men to sacrifice his life in the invasion of Europe in World War II; he was inducted into the United States Army on February 25, 1943, and was assigned to the infantry; and

WHEREAS, On June 12, 1944, six days after the invasion began he was wounded in Normandy, France, and on June 14, 1944, at the age of 20 he died of his wounds and was buried in the United States Military Cemetery at St. Laurent, France; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 1946, VFW National Headquarters granted a charter to the Pvt. Leonard Post Jr. Post 6251, Cheektowaga, New York; and

WHEREAS, Private Leonard Post, Jr.'s body was returned to the United States, and funeral services were held on December 20, 1947, at St. John Gualberts Church; burial was in the soldiers section at Forest Lawn Cemetery with full military honors provided by the post which bears his name; and

WHEREAS, On April 13, 1948, the Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post 6251 was incorporated and registered with the State of New York, the corporation tasked with the financial aspects of the business and the maintenance of the building and grounds; and

WHEREAS, A Ladies Auxiliary was chartered on October 22, 1950, and Dads of Foreign Service Veterans Post 203, chartered on September 20, 1962, also shares the Post home; and

WHEREAS, The first meeting of Private Leonard Post Jr. Post 6251 was in a back building on Walden Avenue, and Ben Holtz was elected Commander; although the new organization struggled financially, they dreamed of having a facility of their own; and

WHEREAS, Through many fundraising efforts and numerous bingo games, the Private Leonard Post Jr. Post 6251 was able to buy a vacant building lot on Walden Avenue; unfortunately the building was destroyed by fire on January 26, 1949, before one meeting was held there; and

WHEREAS, A few years later, a large monument dedicated to those who gave their lives for their country was erected by the post at Walden

Avenue and Leonard Post Drive (formally Krakus Boulevard) and was dedicated on May 30, 1953; and

WHEREAS, The Private Leonard Post Jr. Post 6251 then bought land, and

the cornerstone was put in place on November 22, 1960; one year later, the post held their first meeting at 2000 Walden Avenue; and WHEREAS, This building served as the post headquarters for many years until the Walden Galleria Mall was being constructed; the mall bought the building and the post headquarters moved to 2450 Walden Avenue in 1988, its present location; and

WHEREAS, Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post No. 6251 has a noble past, accomplishing its mission and performing its good deeds in a spirit of comradeship true to the highest traditions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the devoted leadership of the Post's outstanding Commanders, both present and past, and the absolute commitment of its many proud members, noting the role played by this exceptional organization and recognizing the significance of the contributions and sacrifices of the membership of the Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post No. 6251; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post No. 6251 for its steadfast and unwavering dedication to the Cheektowaga, New York community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Private Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post No. 6251.