

2015-J1807

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association

WHEREAS, Thousands of military personnel from the great State of New York have served their country faithfully and courageously, with dedication and sacrifice, and are due the praise and just recognition of this Legislative Body for their role in the defense of our Nation's liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1990, two Korean War Veterans, Edward Grygier and Frank Flynn, attended a National Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) reunion in Washington, D.C., which memorialized the 40th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War on June 25, 1950; after attending this auspicious event, the two men decided to start a KWVA on Staten Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, The first meeting of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, named after a soldier from Staten Island who was killed in Korea while in captivity, was held in 1990, and was attended by 16 charter members, including Charles Aloj, Joseph Calabria, Elmo Cassio, John Cornell, Bill Doran, Frank Flynn, Tim Foley, Tony Franco, Bill Fromm, Art Gaughran, Aaron Gerwitz, Ed Grygier, Richie McNeil, Bill O'Brien, F. Schiano, and Larry Shaver; and

WHEREAS, Between 1990-1999, membership of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association grew from 16 to 250 members, making it one of the largest chapters in the KWVA; and

WHEREAS, The Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association was instrumental in establishing a Korean War

heroes' parade which marched down Broadway to the dedication of New York City's Korean War Monument in Battery Park on June 25, 1991, the 41st Anniversary of the start of the Korean War; today, the chapter continues to host services at this Memorial every June; and

WHEREAS, Another important goal of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association was to help fund a memorial in Washington, D.C., giving recognition to all the "forgotten" soldiers from the Korean War; due to the efforts of the American Korean War Veterans the National Korean War Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C. in 1995; and

WHEREAS, On May 18, 1996, the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association erected their own Korean War Veterans Memorial on Staten Island; it was dedicated to the 35 residents who were killed in Korea during the hostilities there between 1950-1953, as well as to all those who served in the armed services during this period; in addition, this remarkable chapter was responsible for renaming the Richmond Parkway to the Korean War Veterans Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Through the participation of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, the Department of New York, KWVA was formed, representing 12 chapters throughout the State of New York; founding member Ed Grygier served as its Vice President, and now holds the esteemed position of National Director of the National KWVA; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of President Joe Calabria, the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association participates in Veterans' Day events in Manhattan, as well as every parade and Veterans Memorial service on Staten Island; in addition,

the Chapter hosts a dinner dance in the spring, a picnic in the summer, and a social get together during the holidays; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the members of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association contribute to numerous

community projects and have made monetary donations to many causes and organizations, such as both the Korean Community Churches and Schools; and

WHEREAS, To further honor his ultimate sacrifice, the new PS 6 school and a park in New Dorp Beach was named in memory of Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association travel to local schools and educate students about the Korean War and the sacrifices the soldiers made for freedom in a far away land; and

WHEREAS, Often called the "Forgotten War" and the "Forgotten Veterans," due to the Korean War's inconclusive ending and its chronological place in history, between World War II and the 10-year Vietnam War, Korean War Veterans and the families of those who died or are missing, have faithfully endeavored to help the citizens of this great State and Nation in their understanding of, and appreciation for, the courage, commitment and sacrifices made by America's servicemen and women; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, acting on behalf of the citizens of the Empire State, to honor, with great respect and reverent esteem, the members of the Armed Services who served their State and Nation so valiantly and honorably in the defense of freedom and democracy during the Korean War; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, and to renew its tribute to the men and women of the State of New York who served so faithfully and courageously; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President Joe Calabria, Corporal Allan F. Kivlehan Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association.