

2015-J3056

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Anthony A. Thomas posthumously 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 Anthony A. Thomas posthumously 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 resolution 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 on March 24, 1924 in Albany, New York, Anthony A. Thomas was the son of the late Joseph and Geraldine Thomas; he graduated from Watervliet High School in 1942, and went on to attend Brooklyn College; and

WHEREAS, Anthony A. Thomas valiantly served his country as a member of the United States Coast Guard during the Second World War from 1942 to 1946; he was also a United States Navy veteran during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1952; and

WHEREAS, On May 23, 1953, Anthony A. Thomas married the former Helen

C. Maier and together they raised six beautiful children; and
WHEREAS, A sales representative for the former Bearing Distributors in
Troy, Anthony A. Thomas retired in 1986 after 32 years of distinguished
service; he was also a volunteer with the RPI Athletic Department for
more than four decades as a player-host and coordinator; and
WHEREAS, Furthermore, he worked as a minor official for RPI football
and hockey games, and served as past president of the Friends of RPI
Hockey; he was active in the Troy Youth Hockey Association for more than
25 years and was a member of its board of directors; and
WHEREAS, Active within the community, Anthony A. Thomas was a member,
past president and board member of the Troy Kiwanis Club; during this
time, he received numerous awards and citations including the Legion of
Merit for community service and Kiwanis Principles; and
WHEREAS, Anthony A. Thomas was a member of the Knights of Columbus,
the Troy Industrial Club, Brunswick Lodge of Elks and Junior Chamber
International; he was a volunteer and instructor for the New York
Special Olympics, as well as co-founder, past vice-president and treas-
urer of the Troy Babe Ruth League; and
WHEREAS, In addition, Anthony A. Thomas was well known in local golf
circles, serving as co-founder, past president and secretary of the
Frear Park Twilight League and past president of the Frear Park Golf
Association; he also served as volunteer and instructor to the Blind
Golfers Association; and
WHEREAS, A friendly man with a quick wit and a ready smile, Anthony A.
Thomas was a loving husband, father and grandfather; he was a communi-
cator of Sacred Heart Church in Berlin and a member of St. Patrick's and
Our Lady of Victory in Troy; and

WHEREAS, Anthony A. Thomas died on Thursday, November 24, 2005, at the
age of 81; he is survived by his wife, Helen; six children, Andrea
(David), Charles (Susan), Marybeth (Paul), Robert (Kim), John (Eileen)
and Paul; and four grandchildren, Brynna, Maggie, Sophia and Dylan; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Anthony A. Thomas displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Anthony A. Thomas demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserved to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Anthony A. Thomas posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as a 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 the family of Anthony A. Thomas.