

2015-J3062

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. 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 Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. 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, to be celebrated at the Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in November of 2015; 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, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. was born on May 11, 1933, to the late Gerard J. and Mary E. (Crane) LaBarge in Boston, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. enlisted as a member of the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17; he was schooled as a High-Speed Radio Operator in San Diego, California, and bravely participated in several combat missions with the 1st Division 5th Marine Regiment in Korea; and

WHEREAS, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. earned several medals and accolades

for his exceptional military service including the Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon being honorably discharged in 1954, this esteemed man worked as a telegrapher for the Boston and Maine Railroad before settling in Schenectady, New York; he entered the world of banking, and worked for several banks before retiring from Key Bank after an illustrious 42 year career; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. became a proud member of the Marine Corps League where he served as Past-Commandant of the Troy Detachment and Past Adjutant of the state organization; he was also a member of the Veterans of Lansingburgh, Korean War Veterans, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as Vice-Chairman of the Rensselaer County Honor a Vet program; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. was an active part of his community and participated in numerous Flag Day and Memorial Day Parades; he also tended bar at the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS; Predeceased by his parents and his brother, Paul, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. is survived by his beloved wife, Adele C. (Wubbenhorst) LaBarge; one sister, Mary Elizabeth; his five children, Christopher (Heather), Arlene (John), David (Sandy), Michelle (Joel), and Matthew, and nine grandchildren, Adam, Jennifer, David, Jr., Catherine, Robert, Jr., Melanie, Spencer, Olivia, and Nathan, as well as his four great-grandchildren, Hunter, Maddie, Gwen, and Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. demonstrated his love for his country and merits forevermore the highest respect of his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve 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 Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr. 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 be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Gerard J. LaBarge, Jr.