

2015-J3067

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Harold James Smith 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 Harold James Smith 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 Columbia County Honor-A-Vet Ceremony on October 26, 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, Harold James Smith was born to Edgar and Elizabeth (Storm) Smith on November 23, 1925, in Hudson, New York, where he attended both elementary and high school; and

WHEREAS, On March 8, 1944, Harold James Smith enlisted in the United States Army, and after the completion of basic training, he became an Infantryman; and

WHEREAS, Private Harold James Smith was assigned to the 386th Infantry Regiment in the European Theater of Operation on May 2, 1945; during

this time he participated in combat operations in the Rhineland (Germany) until the end of hostilities and then returned to the United States on April 23, 1946, where he was honorably discharged on May 2, 1946; and WHEREAS, In recognition of his outstanding service, Harold James Smith was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the Combat Infantry Badge, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, as well as the World War II Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, Upon his re-entry into civilian life, Harold James Smith returned to his hometown to complete high school where he met his future wife Anna Concra; together, they were the proud parents of four wonderful children, James, David, Harold, Jr., and Robert; and

WHEREAS, For over 25 years, Harold James Smith owned and operated A-Z Cleaning Company in Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of his community, this remarkable man was a member of the Hudson Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Hudson Elks No. 787, as well as the Hudson American Legion, where he also held the position of Treasurer for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Harold James Smith died on December 12, 2012, at the age of 88, leaving behind his four beloved sons, five loving grandchildren, and four treasured great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited his patriotism both at home and abroad, Harold James Smith 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 Harold James Smith 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 Harold James Smith.