

## 2015-J3226

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Colonel David P. Blanks upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize those remarkable individuals who honorably and courageously serve their country in order to protect the life and liberty of our citizens, and whose military service, professional lives, and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Colonel David P. Blanks upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force to be celebrated at a ceremony held in his honor on Monday, September 28, 2015, in Rome, New York; and

WHEREAS, David P. Blanks graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Air Force Academy in 1987; he also completed master's degrees in Business Administration and Systems Engineering, as well as in Military Operational Arts and Science and Strategic Studies; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed airman worked on numerous aircraft engineering and test analysis assignments before being selected as Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 4, at the United States Air Force Academy where he was responsible for supervising 110 cadets and making recommendations for commissions; and

WHEREAS, Following a year spent in residence at the Air Command and Staff College, Colonel David P. Blanks served as a Staff Officer to the United States Air Forces in Europe in Ramstein, Germany; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Colonel David P. Blanks was deployed in support of

Operation Enduring Freedom to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he bravely served as Chief, Policy and Strategy, Office of Military Cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Colonel David P. Blanks was named inaugural Commander of the 421st Air Base Squadron at RAF Menwith Hill, United Kingdom, in 2005; at this time, his efforts were vital in overseeing the operations of over 300 personnel in five flights providing personnel, logistics, medical, communication and service support; and

WHEREAS, Colonel David P. Blanks attended the Air War College in 2007, and, subsequently, was named Associate Director and Commander of Detachment 7, Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate where he fulfilled comprehensive mission support duties; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his most recent assignment, Colonel David P. Blanks served as the Commander of the 321st Expeditionary Mission Support Advisory Group in Tikrit, Iraq; during this time, he led his group in providing complete base support mentoring at six sites across Iraq, and expertly served as Senior Advisor to the Iraq Air Force Academy; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2011, Colonel David P. Blanks became the Commander of the Rome Research Site, and the Deputy Director of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Information Directorate; and

WHEREAS, Proven to be an outstanding leader, Colonel David P. Blanks served with loyalty, honor, and distinction as the Installation Commander for over 2,500 personnel; he played a key role in overseeing a significant annual budget, and also directed the activities of approximately 810 military and civilian scientists, engineers, administrative and support personnel; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Colonel David P. Blanks was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems;

he has truly earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous honors for his dedicated service to

the Air Force, Colonel David P. Blanks has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters), Air Force Commendation Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Joint Service Achievement Medal (one oak leaf cluster), and Air Force Achievement Medal (two oak leaf clusters); and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who dedicate their lives to military service merit the commendation and applause of all citizens for their commitment to the preservation of American freedom; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Colonel David P. Blanks upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service to the United States Air Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Colonel David P. Blanks.