

2015-J3931

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post No. 105 upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2016 Circle of Humanity Award by Temple Israel, Albany, New York

WHEREAS, Members of the Armed Services from the State of New York, who have served so valiantly and honorably in wars in which this country's freedom was at stake, as well as in the preservation of peace in peacetime, deserve a special salute from this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commend those who have served in times of active conflict, as well as those who have served in times of peace; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post No. 105 upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2016 Circle of Humanity Award by Temple Israel, Albany, New York, to be celebrated at a dinner on Monday, May 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Circle of Humanity Award is presented to local individuals and institutions who devote themselves to making a positive difference in our community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious award is given to those who have shown courage and initiative to reach out, together, to create an atmosphere that is at once positive, exciting and contagious, spreading its arms in an extension of human circles which includes those in every walk of life; the Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post No. 105 epitomizes this definition; and

WHEREAS, Albany Post 105 of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has more than 80 years of service to the Capital Region's Jewish community and the cause of veterans' nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Originally chartered in February of 1935, the Albany Post

105's 21 charter members ultimately led to the formation of the Capital Region District Council along with posts from Schenectady, Troy, Utica, and Glens Falls; Post 36 in Saratoga Springs joined the council in 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Post includes a diverse group of Jewish veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Gulf War, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, The Jewish War Veterans supports the efforts of the national organization to combat bigotry and foster citizenship and patriotism; Post veterans support their fellow comrades and families along with ensuring honors and care for the gravesites of our fallen soldiers; and

WHEREAS, "The purpose of the Jewish War Veterans is, in part, to uphold the fair name of the Jew... wherever unjustly assailed; ...combat the powers of bigotry...; and to preserve the memories... of patriotic service performed by the men and women of our faith;" noted Post Commander and Vietnam Veteran Paul Zonderman, quoting from the JWV Constitution Preamble; and

WHEREAS, Albany Post 105 is a volunteer partner with the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany to assist with veterans' causes and their care and is the charter organization for the annual "Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award," first presented in 1966; and

WHEREAS, The Jewish War Veterans is the oldest veterans organization in the country and is a sponsor of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their

lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Having exhibited their patriotism both at home and abroad, these men and women demonstrated their love for their country and merit

forevermore, the highest respect of their 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 the Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post No. 105 upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the 2016 Circle of Humanity Award by Temple Israel, Albany, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul Zonderman, Commander, Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post No. 105.