

## 2015-J4370

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 22, 2016, as 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Fort Drum is located in Jefferson County, in Northern New York, and is the largest military installation in the Northeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum is named for Lieutenant General Hugh Drum, a decorated national hero, former commander of First Army, and an early leader of the State's own volunteer militia, the New York Guard; and

WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, Fort Drum has been home to the United States Army's storied 10th Mountain Division; and

WHEREAS, The 10th Mountain Division includes the Army's most deployed combat units, serving with honor, distinction and great sacrifice as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom and other actions central to our Nation's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Elements of the 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum in New York State, were first to be deployed in the aftermath of those attacks and, 13 years later, the last units to return from combat duty, so for the first time in more than a decade, nearly all of Fort Drum's soldiers and officers are back at home in New York State; and

WHEREAS, 323 brave men and women who were members of the 10th Mountain Division and based at Fort Drum gave their lives in the cause of defeating global terrorism; and

WHEREAS, The distinguished service of units posted to Fort Drum has been celebrated by Presidents, members of Congress, and members of the international community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its vital role in our Nation's defense, Fort Drum is the largest single-site employer in the State of New York, and

an economic engine for the State and region, with a direct impact of more than \$1.2 billion in 2014, and more than \$20 billion since the reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum; and

WHEREAS, The 18,000 soldiers and officers of Fort Drum and their families are an integral part of the community, and are welcomed as neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friends and fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to salute the soldiers and officers of the 10th Mountain Division, to honor their dedication to preserving our freedom and our Nation, and to recognize their individual and collective contributions to our communities and to New York State; and

WHEREAS, For the past five years, 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day has served to educate members of this Legislative Body about the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of our armed forces, as well as the importance of the installation to our Nation's defense and New York's economy; and

WHEREAS, Fort Drum has and will continue to play an important and essential role in ensuring our Nation's military readiness to defend our State and Nation against hostility and threats to our safety and national security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 22, 2016, as 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Brigadier General Paul Bontrager, Commanding General of Fort Drum.