

2015-K1554

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 15, 2016, as Special Operations Forces Day in the State of New York, and commending those military men from New York State who serve our nation as team members of the Special Operations Forces

WHEREAS, Joint Special Operations Command (J.S.O.C.) Special Operations Forces include the Army Green Berets, Army Night Stalkers, Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, Marine MARSOL, MARINE Force RECON and Air Force Special Tactics; and

WHEREAS, Special Operations teams defend the United States and its interests by conducting synchronized planning of global operations against the enemy; and

WHEREAS, Each special operations team is unique and each team member has a specialty that is needed to accomplish the goal, which never changes, to defend the United States and its interests; and

WHEREAS, The Navy SEALs are named after the environment in which they operate SEA, AIR and LAND; and

WHEREAS, Navy SEALs are organized, trained and equipped to conduct a variety of special operations missions in all operational environments; and

WHEREAS, SEALs trace their history from the elite frogmen of World War II; and

WHEREAS, National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, also known as the Navy SEAL Museum is located in St. Lucie County just in Fort Pierce, Florida; and

WHEREAS, The centerpiece of the Memorial is a bronze sculpture of a World War II Combat Swimmer and their counterparts, and today's NAVY SEALs; and

WHEREAS, Names of all Underwater Demolition Team members, Frogmen of World War II and modern Navy SEALs who have died in the service of our

country are carved in the black, granite panels on the walls surrounding the sculptures and its reflection pool; and

WHEREAS, The National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to preserving the history of the Navy SEALs and their predecessors, including the Underwater Demolition Teams, Naval Combat Demolition Units, Office of Strategic Services Maritime Units and Amphibious Scouts and Raiders; and

WHEREAS, There are several New Yorkers who were members of the elite Navy SEALs, among them was Michael Patrick "Murph" Murphy (May 7, 1976-June 28, 2005) from Smithtown, New York; he was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for actions of war in Afghanistan; he was the first member of the United States Navy to receive the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War; he was killed June 28, 2005 after his team was compromised and surrounded by Taliban forces near Asadabad, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Michael A. Strenk (died September 29, 2007) from Scotia, New York, a Navy SEAL who received a Navy Commendation Medal for mobilization during GWOT 2004-2005; and

WHEREAS, Roy Boehm (April 9, 1924-December 30, 2008) was born in Brooklyn, New York, served in three wars and various clandestine operations; he was commissioned and led what became the Navy SEALs, and is considered the godfather of all SEALs; and

WHEREAS, Rudolph Ernst "Rudy" Boesch (January 20, 1928-) was born in Rochester, New York; he was chosen as one of the first SEALs and became Chief of the Boat in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Maguire, from Brooklyn, New York (1952-) was a member of the Underwater Demolition/SEAL training (BUDS) and graduated as Honor Man, Class of 93; and

WHEREAS, It is important that we honor those men who have served in the Special Operations Forces so that we may pay tribute to their military actions that have helped to make this country outstanding; and

WHEREAS, We honor those members from the State of New York who served

in the Joint Special Operations Command; and

WHEREAS, Through its avowed commitment to those who have served in the cause of America's Freedom; those men who served in Special Operations Forces so unselfishly advance the spirit of the united purpose and shared concern which is the unalterable manifestation of our American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the bravery, patriotism and sacrifice made by those who serve in Special Operations Forces, particularly in the Navy SEALs, both those living and those who died in service to our great country; and to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Wednesday, June 15, 2016, as Special Operations Forces Day in the State of New York, fully confident that such procedure mirrors our shared commitment to preserve, to ensure and yet effect that patrimony of freedom which is our American Heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; the families of Michael Patrick "Murph" Murphy, Michael A. Strenk, Roy Boehm, Rudolph Ernst "Rudy" Boesch, and Joseph Maguire; Colonel Eric J. Hesse, (Ret.), Director of the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs; and Rich Keider, Director, and Ruth McSween, historian of the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum.